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EU Calls For Blocking Helms-Burton Law

BRUSSELS — The European commission proposed to member states on Wednesday that the European Union should adopt legislation to block the unfavorable effects of the U.S. Helms-Burton law on European firms doing business with Cuba.

In particular, the legislation would provide a legal basis for European companies penalized by U.S. authorities to enable them to apply to European courts for reimbursement of indemnities paid to the United States.

It would also provide financial compensation for European businesses affected by the Helms-Burton Law. (AFP)

Burundian President Flees to U.S. Embassy

BUJUMBURA — Burundi President Sylvester Ntibantunganya has taken refuge at the residence of a U.S. ambassador in Bujumbura, a diplomat said here Wednesday.

"There's panic in the president's entourage," the diplomat said.

The revelation comes after a statement by Burundi's main opposition party accusing the Hutu president of high treason and announcing it would withdraw support for Ntibantunganya.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Kalantari Leaves for Sri Lanka Today



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Minister of Agriculture, Issa Kalantari, is to leave here for Colombo today on a 4-day official visit.

Kalantari's visit to Sri Lanka is at the invitation of Sri Lankan counterpart and other officials.

He is to discuss with his counterpart issues concerning the two countries cooperation in cultivation of tea and rice.

Iran is among major importers of tea from Sri Lanka.

MUBARAK:

Golan Necessary for Peace

WASHINGTON — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has warned Israeli Premier Benjamin Netanyahu that Syria will not sign a peace treaty unless Israel cedes the Golan Heights, according to reports Tuesday.

In a *Washington Post* interview Tuesday, Mubarak said that he "told him (Netanyahu), 'look, my point of view (is) Syria would never sign any peace treaty unless they take back their territory.'"

The Egyptian head of state, who met with Netanyahu last week, was adamant: "I am telling you to put it in your mind to understand what is in the mentality of the Syrians."

To the interviewer, he added "I did not want to push him," and "I told him, 'I don't want any answer from you.'"

Mubarak, however, also told Netanyahu that "it will be very dangerous" if the Israeli premier does not take concrete steps to settle territorial disputes between the Israelis and the Syrians and Palestinians. (AFP)

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy has asked Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to take a message to Syria saying he is ready to hold top-level talks, in the first such overture by the new right-wing government here.

"Tell the Syrian Foreign Minister (Faruq al-Shara) that the way they went until now did not advance peace," Levy told Arafat when they met Tuesday in Beit Hanoun in the Gaza Strip, according to an Israeli official.

"So, perhaps, (the Syrians) should do something and go for open dialogue. I am willing to meet him anywhere and anytime," Levy added, according to the official quoted Wednesday by the *Jerusalem Post*.

Arafat is to travel to Syria on Thursday for the first time in three years for talks with President Hafez al-Assad aimed at healing a rift caused by the PLO's 1993 autonomy accords with Israel.

Meanwhile, the Syrian press on Wednesday warned Arab countries against being duped by the new-found flexibility shown by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"The formal and sudden flexibility as well as the political conformity Netanyahu is trying to show and spread could temporarily fool some people but not all of them and not for ever," wrote the official daily *Ath-Thwara*.

But *Ath-Thwara* wrote that the move came because "Netanyahu, surrounded on all sides ... is trying to breach the Arab, European

(Contd on Pg.14)

Mojtaba Tahin — Tehran Times

Message of Qatari Emir Conveyed to President Rafsanjani

Tehran Times Service

Tehran — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here Wednesday received the Qatari Foreign Minister, before leaving here for Doha, Sheikh Hamad bin Jassem al-Thani, who conveyed a message from Emir of Qatar.

In his message the Qatari Emir stressed the pivotal role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in preserving peace and stability in the region.

Calling for further exchange of views among the regional countries, in his message, the Qatari head of State stressed that regional cooperation will prevent the outsiders from taking advantage in the Persian Gulf region.

President Rafsanjani voiced Tehran's willingness to deepen its relations with the Persian Gulf littoral states and preserving peace and stability in the region.

Expressing satisfaction with the growing trend of Tehran-Doha ties, President Rafsanjani called for further cooperation between the two countries in political, economic, commercial and technical fields.

Meanwhile, foreign ministers of Iran and Qatar Wednesday exchanged views on ways to consolidate mutual ties and regional cooperation.

Expressing content with Tehran-Doha ties, the visiting Qatari foreign minister called for promotion of relations at all levels.

Stressing Iran's important role in the region, he said maintaining contact between the officials of the two countries will help expand bilateral relations and strengthen regional tranquility and stability.

(Contd on Pg.14)

DE CHARETTE:

Israel Must Keep Commitments to Peace

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — Israel must keep its commitments to the Palestinians, especially over the West Bank town of Al-Khalil, French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette said Wednesday after talks with Israeli leaders.

"Israel must keep the commitments taken by the previous government, that is to say by the state of Israel, with regard to Hebron (Al-Khalil) and the Palestinians," De Charette told the French radio station Europe 1 in an interview from Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

"That is the Israelis' intention but it takes time and time is dangerous in this region because it works against peace," he added.

De Charette, who met Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Gaza on Tuesday, met Wednesday in Bait-ul-Moqaddas with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy.

Under the autonomy accords, Israel was to have withdrawn its troops from most of Al-Khalil in March.

(Contd on Pg.14)

Chechens Kill Six Russian Troops as Clashes Erupt

MOSCOW — Six Russian soldiers were killed and 23 wounded in fighting in Chechnya in the past 24 hours, which included fierce clashes around the devastated southwestern village of Bamut, the Russian military command said.

Four soldiers were killed and six wounded when Chechen separatists surrounded a federal unit near Bamut, ITAR-TASS news agency quoted the command as saying.

Bamut, where the fighters held out until May against overwhelming odds, has become a symbol of the Chechen resistance.

The Chechens said Tuesday they had recaptured the village, but the federal command denied the claim.

The area came under Russian air attack last week.

Two Russian soldiers were killed and 17 wounded in other clashes in the breakaway north Caucasus republic, the command said.

General Vladimir Shamanov, deputy commander of Federal Forces in Chechnya, said that for a third day running bad weather prevented the use of air power against fighter strongholds.

While the Russians said they were unable to launch air strikes Tuesday, the fighters said warplanes raided the mountain villages of Shatoi and Itum-Kale, some 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of the Chechen capital Grozny.

A Russian air and land offensive against the separatists, who are fighting for an independent Chechnya, has been in progress for two weeks.

It shattered a fragile six-week cease-fire in the 19-month war, which has killed some 40,000

(Contd on Pg.14)



Shell Hits Close by UNICEF's Afghan HQ

KABUL — Shells fired by the Taleban militia narrowly missed the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) offices here Wednesday, shattering a truce specially brokered by the agency, witnesses said.

The attack came on the fourth day of a five-day cease-fire arranged by UNICEF to allow the second round of its massive polio vaccination campaign to go ahead across war-torn Afghanistan.

The artillery round, which landed just 15 meters (50 feet) from UNICEF's now deserted Kabul headquarters, blew in the office's remaining windows and sprayed the premises with chunks of shrapnel.

Another shell landed 30 meters (100 feet) away from UNICEF, slightly injuring two passers-by and causing extensive damage to nearby buildings in Kabul's once-plush suburb of Wazir Akbar Khan, doctors and witnesses said.

The large concrete building was empty, as the agency had earlier this year moved its personnel to other premises in Kabul in a bid to further assure their security, officials said.

Government and military sources said the D-30 artillery shells were fired by Taleban militia, encamped on battered Kabul's outskirts for the past nine months.

The shells were the first to fall in this besieged city since last Thursday when at least seven people were killed and 26 injured in an artillery barrage that struck a busy market place.

UNICEF officials in the western Pakistani city of Peshawar were dismayed at the attack which occurred after all sides in the Afghan civil war had agreed to a cessation of hostilities to facilitate the crucial round of vaccinations. (AFP)

Amnesty: Israel Deliberately Killed Civilians in Lebanon

UNITED NATIONS — Amnesty International on Tuesday accused the Israeli armed forces of deliberately killing civilians "in clear breach" of the rules of war during raids against Islamic Hezbollah in Lebanon.

In a report issued by its UN office, Amnesty International noted that a UN report into the killing of more than 100 civilians at a UN compound in southern Lebanon on April 18 had concluded that it was "unlikely" the shelling had been a mistake.

The human rights organization said that according to its own investigations in Lebanon and Israel, "available information indicates that the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) intentionally attacked the UN compound, despite Israeli claims that the attack was a mistake."

"The horrific nature of the events at Cana has only been made worse by the Israeli govern-

(Contd on Pg.14)

China Warns Taiwan Over UN Application

BEIJING — China warned Taiwan Wednesday to stay away from the United Nations and slammed Nicaragua for calling for the island's representation at the international body.

"This is a serious event which wantonly tramples on the UN Charter and its principles and interferes in China's internal affairs," Foreign Ministry spokesman Cui Tiankai told Xinhua.

Nicaragua was among several countries with ties with Taipei which recently sent a letter to UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali urging UN representation for Taiwan, an island which China regards as a renegade province that will one day return to rule by Beijing.

"Taiwan has been an inalienable part of Chinese territory ever since ancient times. As a province of China, Taiwan has no qualifi-

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In the Name of Allah

Again, We gave the Book to Musa to complete (Our blessings) on him who would do good (to others), and making plain all things and a guidance and a mercy, so that they should believe in the meeting of their Lord.

(HOLY QORAN) (6:154)

OPINION

Peace and Security Are Essential for Development

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani yesterday said that internal security has provided the groundwork for development to proceed at an unprecedented pace.

In fact peace and security are the two prerequisites for sound development in any part of the world. Internal security and regional peace are inducements for foreign investment in long-term projects in the country.

Iran's internal security and the region's stability depend on two factors–the country's strength and ability to defend itself and the guaranteed cooperation of regional neighbors in times of stress.

If a country is secure no country in the world will dare covet its resources, more importantly its territory. Iran's geo-political importance, on the one hand, and its resources on the other, arouse the envy of enemies who naturally aim to share in the God-given blessings.

Lacking the popular support of the masses, the Shah's regime had made the security of the country dependent on the help of the United States. Since the 1960s, the Shah of Iran was determined an appropriate stooge to be used as a "regional influence" behind Nixon's Doctrine of safeguarding the interests of the United States. Ironically huge amounts of petrodollars were funnelled from Tehran to the U.S. and other Western countries to arm Iran for safeguarding U.S. interests in the region.

After the collapse of the monarchy the U.S. and some European countries, through massive propaganda, then tried to project Iran as a threat to the security of the region.

The indisputable fact is that after the Islamic Revolution Iran's military expenditure has been one of the lowest in the region, a fact which proves that Tehran does not entertain any expansionist plans in the region.

It is also plain obvious that Iran is the region's most influential country. No country will deny Iran's regional preeminence. Nonetheless, Iran has demonstrated time and again its goodwill towards other countries by way of offers for cooperation. The generosity that it displays in going out of its way to help less privileged neighbors cannot be overemphasized.

The focal point of Iran's foreign policy is that regional security can best be achieved if it is left solely in the hands of regional countries. Unfortunately, it is a policy hard to sell to some of its neighbors which are inclined to rely on outside help instead of claiming the unwavering and tested strength of Islam.

As Muslim brothers, we must never forget that Allah is our refuge and we can count on the unity of our Muslim brothers to maintain security within and outside our borders. "In unity there is strength" is a motto we can live by to encourage cooperation among ourselves and which is the best guarantee to security and peace in the region.

Iran invites its neighbors to test its sincerity and put an end to any excuse for allowing foreign powers to be in the region.

AFP Admits Its Distortion of Iran's Islamic Penal Code

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – The Tehran bureau of the Agence France Presse (AFP) admitted that it had distorted an article on crucial Islamic penal code, said IRNA, quoting the bilingual weekly *Kayhan Havai* on Wednesday.

Acknowledging that the mistake had been made in covering the law, the bureau described the distortion as a "translation error" when the mistake was pointed out to it a few days later. It said that the article has been sent to press without corrections.

The AFP in a dispatch on July 9 said, "Iran's tough new Islamic penal code sets out the death sentence for defendants found guilty of unspecified offenses against the character of the founder of the Islamic Republic the late Imam Khomeini and his successor Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei."

The agency did not quote any definite source and did not say where it had got the information from.

According to article 514 of the Islamic penal code, anyone insulting in any way the late Imam Khomeini and the revered Leader shall be sentenced to a term of six months to two years in prison.

"It was a translation error. There were no political motives behind the error," the agency's Tehran bureau told *Kayhan Havai*.

Asked why the agency did not correct the report later, it said, "We accept that we made a mistake but it was too late to correct the article. We had no text of the penal code to refer to and we learned of our mistake days after we had printed the article."

Iran-Sierra Leone Parliamentary Ties Discussed

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – Vice-Speaker of the Majlis, Hojjatoleslam Hassan Ruhani, here Wednesday called for expansion of Iran-Sierra Leone cooperation in all domains especially in parliamentary affairs.

He made the call in a meeting with the newly-appointed Sierra Leonean Ambassador to Tehran, Mrs. Hoja Alarie Awantw.

Congratulating Awantw for being the first female ambassador to Tehran, Hojjatoleslam Ruhani stressed the necessity for further cooperation between the two countries in international arena.

Referring to the free elections and restoration of peace in Sierra Leone, he underlined that the prevailing stability in that country has provided the ground for further promotion of Tehran-Freetown ties.

Awantw said that her country attaches importance to its ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran and stressed that the two Muslim countries enjoy great potentials to promote relations.

After independence, for the first time, Sierra Leone is being ruled by the Muslims, Awantw said, calling Tehran to help Freetown resolve its problems.

She also briefed the Iranian vice-speaker on the latest economic and political developments in her country.

UN Envoy on Afghanistan Meets Boroujerdi

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – The UN Human Rights Envoy on Afghanistan Professor Pek, here Tuesday, met with the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Oceania Affairs Alaeddin Boroujerdi.

According to IRNA, in the meeting the UN envoy appreciated the Islamic Republic for rendering services to Afghan refugees living in Iran.

He said Iran has been pioneer in helping the Afghan refugees. All observers admit that the Afghan refugees are treated as equally as Iranian nationals in Iran.

He said Iran would be a good model for the Afghan people from cultural and social point of view.

Boroujerdi said the United Nations is required to offer assistance in repatriating refugees to their home country and providing them with better living conditions inside Afghanistan.

Half a Ton of Morphine Seized in Bam

KERMAN – Some 500 kilograms of morphine have been confiscated by the Law Enforcement Forces stationed in the city of Bam over the past few days, head of the Public Relations Department of the provincial Law Enforcement Forces said here on Wednesday.

According to Major Mohammad Javad Asna Ashari, the drug was found after the forces became suspecious of truck and thoroughly searched it.

The driver was arrested and handed over to Judiciary officials, he said adding that the smuggler was trying to transfer the drug from the southeastern provinces to the central provinces of the country.

According to another IRNA report from Mashhad, Khorasan Province, a total of 1,056 kg of illicit drugs were confiscated by the Khorasan Law Enforcement Forces from the armed smugglers during the past two days, said Public Relations Office of the provincial Law Enforcement Forces on Wednesday. *(IRNA)*

Jewish MP: There Is No Anti-Jew Trend in Iran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – Representative of the Iranian Jewish community in Majlis Manouchehr Elyasi said, here Tuesday, that there is no anti-Jew trend in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Elyasi made the remark in condemnation of the recent allegations of an Israeli Knesset member and some segments of the Western media that Iranian Jews were in danger and that they had no security in Iran.

He said that the goal of such anti-Iran propaganda is to create tension in the minds of Iranian Jews and to misportray their status in Islamic Iran.

Talking to IRNA's parliamentary reporter, he said that the recent death of a Jewish man named Izozla Lameh in Tehran, was a private affair and had nothing to do with the alleged political problems.

According to anther IRNA reprot, prominent Iranian Jewish leader on Wednesday categorically denied the allegations.

Head of the Association of Iranian Jews, Haroun Kalimi Yeshayaei, described such claims as baseless and part of propaganda campaign stemming from the disputes between various Zionist political parties.

He referred to the death of the Iranian Jew and said such incidents might happen to every one either Jew or Muslim in a big city like Tehran.

He said that with the Likud Party coming to power in Israel, the Zionist regime is now seeking to settle its political accounts with the Islamic Republic through Iranian Jews.

Yeshayaei stressed the improvement of social, cultural and religious life of the Iranian Jewish community during the post Revolution era compared to the status before the Revolution.

He said the cultural background of the Iranian people has no room for racist mentalities.

He said the well-known understanding between the Muslims and the Jews in Iran is evident for every impartial visitor to Tehran or other cities of the country.

Taskhiri: Learning Persian Language a Blessing



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – Persian language is the second important language in the world of Islam, said Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Ali Taskhiri, adding that learning the language in a blessed move.

Head of the Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations made the remark in a gathering of professors and teachers of Persian language departments at Indian and Pakistani universities.

According to IRNA, in his speech, Hojjatoleslam Taskhiri called the Persian language a "connecting link" between many regional nations.

He expressed hope that the Indian and Pakistani Persian teachers after returning to their respected countries, will spare no efforts in promoting the values of Persian language.

The professors are attending the first course of the Persian language arranged by the Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations.

The Persian language was the official language in the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent for several centuries, until the coming of the British colonialists, who gradually replaced the English language.

BPO Working on Long-Term Budget Plans

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Head of the of Budget and Planning Organization (BPO) Hamid Mirzadeh, said here on Tuesday that work is underway on a long-term budget plan for the Solar Hijra calendar year 1400 (2021 AD).



He said his organization is working on three plans in addition to its current task, including plans on eradication of poverty and economy without oil, IRNA reported.

Mirzadeh said the draft of the plan to eradicate poverty from the Iranian society would be presented to the cabinet by August 21.

He said the plan on economy without oil is being worked out at the organization and its outlines are expected to be ready by next calendar year (beginning March 21, 1997).

India Announces Economic Package for Kashmir

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda yesterday announced in parliament political package for the trouble-torn state of Jammu and Kashmir, which includes the construction of a broad gauge line up, an alternative national highway and resumption of work on a power project, IRNA reported.

"The projects are pending for a long time and an early action on them is needed," added Gowda.

On 290-km railway project from Udhampur to Baramullah, the Indian prime minister said that this would play a vital role in integrating Kashmir to the rest of the country. He also spoke of his government's plan to raise fund for and make special allocation to the project.

Gowda said that the work on Dulhasti hydroelectric project, which was laying redundant since the withdrawal of its staff by a French firm in 1992, would be resumed with the French firm supplying the machinery and Indian contractors taking up civil works.

As for the alternative national highway, Gowda said that the project will be less vulnerable to frequent blockades due to landslides and snow avalanches than the existing Srinagar-Jammu highway.

Describing the economic package as "India's resolve to show to the world its commitment to the economic development of Kashmir," the Indian premier said that the projects would generate employment and redress many of the economic woes of Kashmiris, bringing them, in turn, back to the national mainstream.

Moscow Asks IMF for Revision of Deal on Oil

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Russia asked the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Wednesday for a revision of the agreement requiring it to increase excise taxes on its oil products, Interfax news agency reported, as quoted by AFP.

It quoted Economics Minister Yevgeni Yasin as saying that he wanted a "correction" of the deal, which is part of an agreement under which the IMF agreed to grant a record credit of around 10 billion dollars to Russia, in installments.

Yasin said he wanted such a revision "not because we cannot respect the provisions, but because life shows that they are unjust".

The IMF got Russia to drop its export taxes on oil products, while excise duties on such products are to rise from 55,000 rubles (10 dollars) to 70,000 rubles (13 dollars) per ton. Yasin said that this forced Russian oil companies to pay "excessive taxes", whereas they are "in much worse shape than their Western counterparts".

He added that it would be possible to offset the drop in state income from lower excise taxes on oil products by more efficient tax collection in general. However, it was precisely lack of effectiveness of tax collection that has just led the IMF to decide on a one-month delay.

Foodborne Diseases Threaten Human Health

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Foodborne diseases, some of them considered emerging because they have recently become more common, endanger human health, the United Nations Information Center in Tehran, quoting the World Health Organization (WHO), reported.

For example, outbreaks of salmonellosis have been reported for decades, but within the past 20 years, the disease has increased in incidence on many continents. In the Western Hemisphere and in Europe, salmonella Serotype Enteritidis (SE) has become the predominant strain. Investigations of SE outbreaks indicate that its emergence is largely related to consumption of poultry or eggs.

However, in 1994, there was a nationwide outbreak of salmonellosis in the United States as a result of contamination of pasteurized ice cream during transport in lorries that had previously carried nonpasteurized liquid eggs containing salmonella enteritidis. It is estimated that 224,000 persons were affected by the outbreak.

New foodborne disease threat occurs for a number of reasons: the globalization of the food supply: the inadvertent introduction of pathogens into new geographic areas: travellers, refugees, and immigrants exposed to unfamiliar foodborne hazards while abroad: changes in microorganisms: change in the human population and changes in lifestyle.

All foodborne diseases pose a considerable threat to human health and the economy of individuals, families and nations. Their control requires a concerted effort on the part of the three principal partners, namely governments, the food industry and consumers, as part of its food safety education campaign, who issued the 10 golden rules for safe food preparation and a guide on safe food for travellers.

Huge Sponged Iron Plant Operational Next Month

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Minister of Mines and Metals Mohammad Hussein Mahloujchi said here on Tuesday that Unit 2 of the Qa'em Sponged Iron Mill will go on stream next month with an annual production of 600,000 tons.

He said production of sponged iron is a modern method initiated by Iran for the first time to produce steel and that Iranian experts have designed and carried out 100 percent of the said project.

Mahlouji said the cost of producing sponged iron is 20 dollars lower than the other methods for each ton of iron output.

Meanwhile, Managing-Director of National Steel Company Ali Shekar Riz said that production of iron plates at the Mobarekeh Steel Complex of Isfahan has reached 700,000 tons in the past four months.

He said the Mobarakeh Steel Complex would provide the Oil Ministry with 200,000 tons of iron plates needed in producing gas and oil pipes.

Phase-1 of Iran-Guinea Bauxite Mining Project Completed

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The visiting Guinean Deputy Minister of Mines, Ebrahim Bah, in a meeting with Iranian Minister of Mines and Metals, Mohammad Hussein Mahlouji said here yesterday that the first phase of the joint project for extracting bauxite in his country has been accomplished.

The project is a joint venture involving Iran and Guinea, and is expected to yield 600,000 tons of bauxite annually.

Ebrahim Bah added that following the modernization of the Guinean railway network, the first convoy of bauxite will be transferred to ports in the near future.



Mahlouji said that the joint Iran-Guinea bauxite mining project coupled with improvement of delivery facilities at the country's port, are attracting investors to the West African country.

He expressed confidence over the ability of an Iranian engineering consultant firm involved in the bauxite mining project in Guinea to accomplish the work successfully.

At the meeting, Iran's Deputy Minister of Mines and Metals Ali Kolahdouz said that in order to speed up the transfer of bauxite from Guinean mines to the ports, parts of railway equipment have been bought on barter basis from some foreign countries which in turn have agreed to receive bauxite as payment.

He added that Iran would make use of Guinean bauxite in a pilot plant for producing alumina powder with a capacity of three tons per day. He said that 40 percent of construction work of the plant has already been completed.

UK Threatens EU Stand Against U.S. Cuba Ban

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The British government was reported Wednesday to have thrown uncertainty over European Union plans to retaliate against controversial U.S. anti-Cuba legislation by threatening to veto some of the proposals.

The UK move to block a united EU stand was said by the *Financial Times* Wednesday to have taken the European Commission by surprise as it was preparing to approve a draft statute to shield companies threatened by the U.S. anti-Cuba law.

It quoted one official saying it was unclear whether the UK had fundamental objections to the united proposals or whether it was engaging in delaying tactics to pre-empt domestic accusation that it was aligning itself too closely with Europe against the U.S.

British officials denied the UK was trying to weaken the EU stance, saying it always insisted there must be consultations before retaliatory measures were agreed. Its concern was that it wanted to be satisfied there was no infringement of national sovereignty.

The proposed EU blocking statute prohibits European companies from complying with provisions of the U.S. act and despite UK objections, was ironically seen closely modelled on Britain's 1981 protection of trading interests act.

EU, Asia Prepare for WTO Meeting

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Senior officials from the European Union and 10 Asian countries met in Brussels on Wednesday to prepare for a ministerial meeting in Singapore in December but were expected to avoid controversial subjects touching on human and labor rights, AFP reported.

The meeting in Singapore is to be held under the aegis of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The preparatory meeting in Brussels was expected to assess progress made in multilateral trade relations since the WTO was created at the beginning of 1995 in succession to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The 10 Asian countries involved are Brunei, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam.

EU sources said that the meeting, which was expected to last for two days, would not cover human rights and labor standards.

Asian countries are resisting pressure from the EU for these matters to be considered in the overall context of trade relations and fair-trading practice.

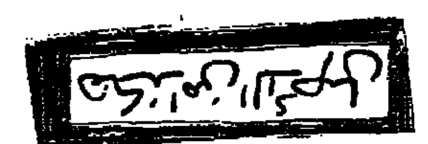
But the EU Commission was expected to adopt on Wednesday a proposal to the 15 EU states to raise minimum labor standards at the conference in Singapore, the EU sources said.

The main purpose of the talks between the EU and Asian countries is to stimulate trade and investment.

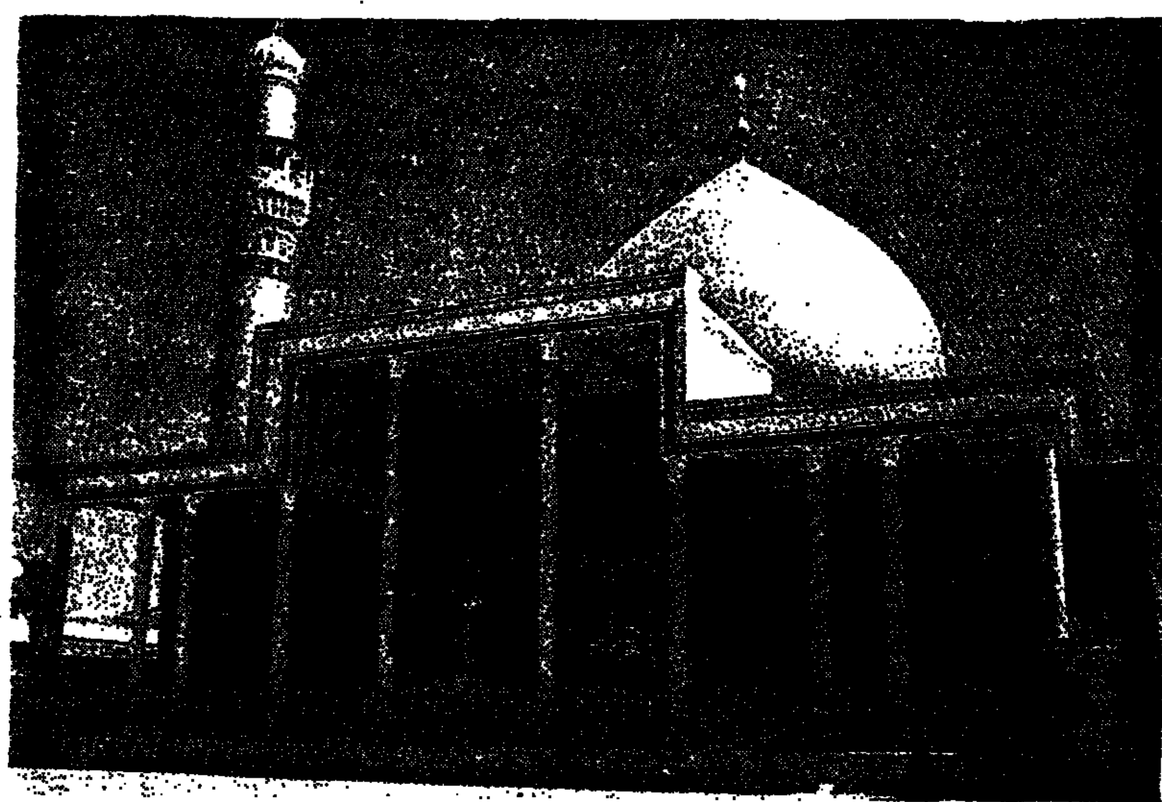
In 1994 two-way trade was high, amounting to about 250 billion ECUS (315 billion dollars), but direct investment from Europe in Asia amounted to only one percent of all direct investment from the EU abroad from 1982 to 1992.

The two sides also disagree over matters of cross-frontier investment which the EU wants to develop.

They have agreed to improve their cooperation over matters concerning non-tariff barriers, notably through working on customs procedures, standards and regulations.



Demise of the Eleventh Imam, Father of the Savior


The holy shrine of Imams Hadi and al-Askari (A.S.)

By Late Allameh Mohammad Hossein Tabatabaei

Imam Hassan ibn Ali 'Askari, the son of the tenth Imam, was born in 232/845 and according to some Shi'a sources was poisoned and killed in 260/872 through the instigation of the Abbasid caliph Mu'tamid.

The eleventh Imam gained the imamate, after the death of his noble father, through Divine Command and through the decree of the previous Imams.

During the seven years of his imamate, due to untold restrictions placed upon him by the caliphate, he lived in hiding and dissimulation (taqiyah). He did not have any social contact with even the common people among the Shi'a population. Only the elite of the Shi'a were able to see him.

Even so, he spent most of his time in prison. There was extreme repression at that time because the Shi'a population had reached a considerable level in both numbers and power.

Everyone knew that the Shi'a believed in the imamate, and the identity of the Shi'a Imams was also known. Therefore, the caliphate kept the Imams under its close supervision more than ever before.

It tried through every possible means and through secret plans to remove and destroy them. Also, the caliphate had come to know that the elite among the Shi'a believed that the eleventh Imam, according to traditions cited by him as well as his forefathers, would have a son who was the promised Mahdi.

The coming of the Mahdi had been foretold in authenticated hadiths of the Prophet in both Sunni and Shi'a sources. For this reason the eleventh Imam, more than other Imams, was kept under close watch by the caliphate.

The caliph of the time had decided definitely to put an end to the imamate in Shi'a through every possible means and to close the door to the imamate once and for all.

Therefore, as soon as the news of the illness, of the eleventh Imam reached Mu'tamid, he sent a physician and a few of his trusted agents and judges to the house of the Imam to be with him and observe his condition and the situation within his house at all times.

After the death of the Imam, they had the house investigated and all his female slaves examined by the midwife. For two years the secret agents of the caliph searched for the successor of the Imam until they lost all hope.

The eleventh Imam was buried in his house in Samarrah next to his noble father. Here it should be remembered that during their lifetimes the Imams trained many hundreds of scholars of religion and hadith, and it is these scholars who have transmitted to us information about the Imams.

In order not to prolong the matter, the list of their names and works and their biographies have not been included here.

Iranian-Invented Electronic Stethoscope to Join International Exhibit

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — An electronic stethoscope, invented by Mehrdad Amini, provides the impetus for Iran to attend the International Exhibit of Medical Equipment and Specialized Cardiac Disease Apparatus scheduled to open in Sofia, Bulgaria on July 31, 1996.

Speaking to the *Tehran Times*, Amini said that during the week-long exhibition, cardiac specialists will discuss the latest scientific and research achievements in the field and will also put on display the latest medical equipment.

With an M.S. in Radiography, Amini specializes in electrocardiography, having finished a special technical course in electrocardiography in Thailand in 1985.

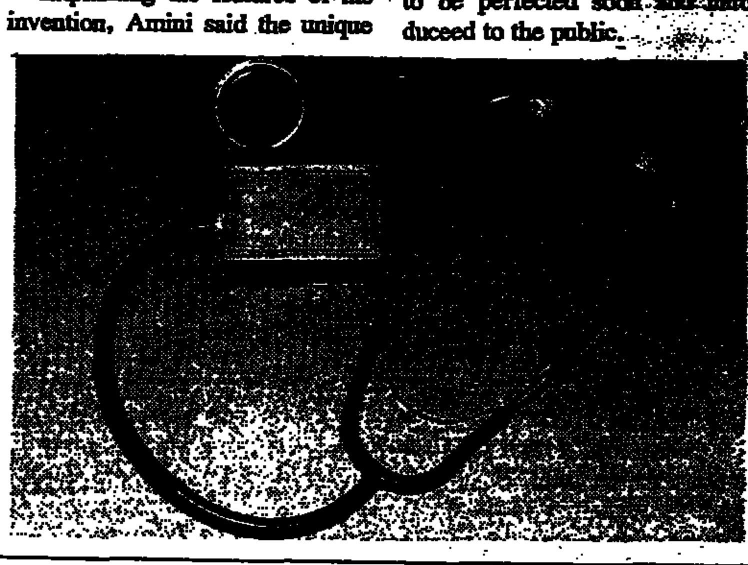
He said his electronic stethescope, which weighs only 150 grams, took him one year to design. The device measures the number of heart beats per given time and has a Ministry of Health approval.

Explaining the features of his invention, Amini said the unique device enables doctors to make a preliminary diagnosis of a cardiac problem when any of the symptoms strike.


AMINI

He said the device is also equipped with a resonator which magnifies the sounds made by the heart and which are not discernible by ordinary stethoscopes.

Amini is optimistic his invention will be mass produced, saying that at present he is already busy with another project—a cardiac pacemaker—which he hopes to be perfected soon and introduceed to the public.



Mahathir Calls for Review of Islamic Laws

KUALA LUMPUR— Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has called for a review of traditional Islamic laws.

"Islam is a just religion and generally averse the universal principle of what constitutes justice," said Mahathir, who is increasingly recognized internationally as a leader of more moderate Muslims.

Mahathir, quoted in the *New Straits Times* daily, said Muslim jurists should go back to the Qoran, the Muslims' holy book, and review Islamic laws.

"Fanaticism and a 'holier than thou' attitude is not faith. They are manifestation of 'nafsu', or lust, of giving in to base instincts," the 72-year old leader said.

The Prime Minister said modern Muslims must be prepared to again interpret the Qoran as past jurists were prepared to interpret and make pronouncements.

If modern scholars who examine the Qoran were mere humans and might be wrong, the chances of many Muslim jurists of the past being wrong were even greater, Mahathir said.

"How else can they rule that it was permitted for the Sultan of Turkey to keep a harem of 300 concubines, or the murder of all the new Sultan's brothers upon his accession to the Othmaniah throne, or their virtual imprisonment in order to prevent any challenge to the Sultan's position?

"Their interpretations cannot be taken as infallible and final. Only when Islam is interpreted so as to be relevant in a world which is different from what it was 1,400 years ago can Islam be regarded as a religion for all ages," he said.

His remarks came amid government moves to streamline the administration of the Islamic laws, which have long been interpreted differently and independently by state religious authorities in malaysia.

In Malaysia's northeastern Kelantan State, the sole opposition-led state, True Parti Islam (PAS) has been fighting to implement religious laws.

PAS has instituted separate payment counters at supermarkets for men and women and also banned annual carnivals in which opposite sexes paraded side by side.

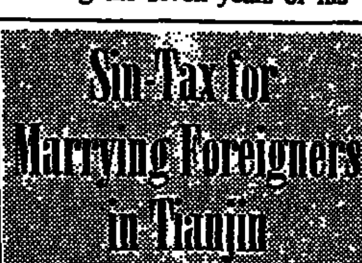
But Mahathir said if such laws were allowed to be implemented, Muslims of Malaysia would be punished more harshly than non-Muslims, resulting in inequality, "which is against the Islamic principle of equity in justice."

"Islam is for all ages and must be practiced in the context of these ages. And Islam in this modern age must be relevant to this age," Mahathir said.

He said he was streamlining the religious administration of all states because diverse Islamic religious enactments had created a wide disparity in the administration of religious laws.

The federal government recently identified at least 25 deviant Islamic groups after outlawing in August, 1994 the al-Arqam Movement, which had 100,000 followers and branches in 16 countries.

(AFP)



BEIJING-- Couples in the bustling eastern city of Tianjin face a "sin tax" of up to 1,000 yuans ($120) if they live together without getting married, Xinhua reported Wednesday.

Also, the Chinese hoping to marry foreigners can put their dreams on hold or move away from Tianjin, formerly a treaty port with an atmosphere similar to Shanghai in the roaring 20s.

The newly issued code forbids marriage agencies from arranging Chinese-foreign matches.

Mixed marriages "sometimes have problems," a Tianjin city official said by telephone.

He refused to elaborate, saying only "our aim is not to fine people but to educate them," and adding that nobody had yet received the maximum fine, which, differently to Xinhua, he put at 2,000 yuans.

Many Chinese--especially those in rural areas--consider themselves married after a simple ceremony at home, and may only find out they are "illegal" when they apply to their work units to have a child.

"We have seen a declining trend of marriage registering, so the code is aimed to putting marriage management on a legal track," said Wang Xuefu, director of the Municipal Marriage Management Division of Tianjin Civil Administration Bureau.

The minimum age for marriage in China is 20 for women and 22 for men. *(AFP)*

Cairo Inter-Faith Conference Tends to Boost Islam's Humanitarian Image

CAIRO – A landmark conference gathering Muslim and Christian leaders from 90 countries opened here Wednesday aimed at countering the Western image of Islam as a religion that preaches violence and intolerance.

The three-day conference has been organized by the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs and has drawn 150 delegates under the banner "Islam and the future of the dialogue between civilizations."

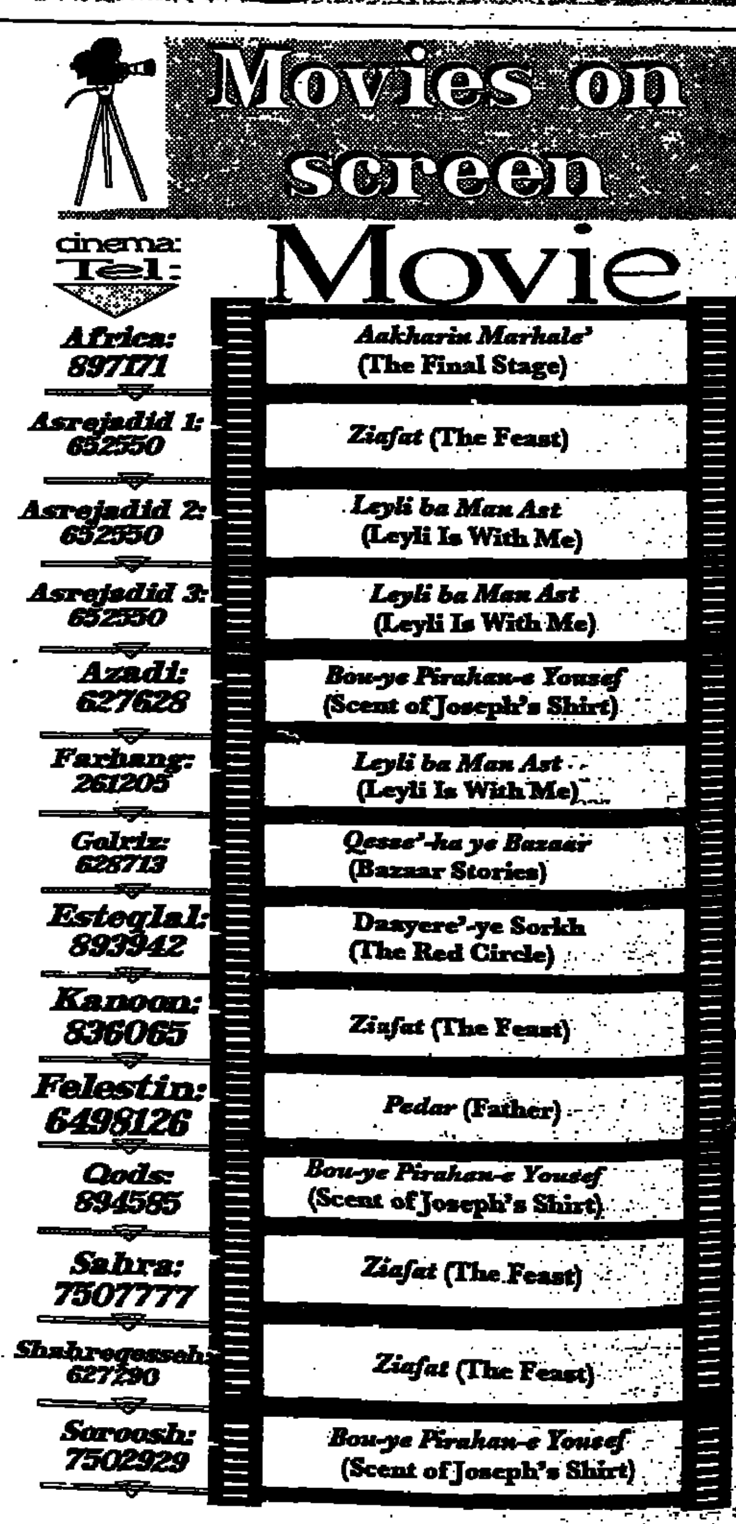
"This conference is a message to the world to show that Islam is a religion of tolerance calling for peaceful co-existance between people and rejecting extremism and terrorism in all forms," Egyptian Religious Affairs Minister Hamdi Zaqzuq told AFP earlier.

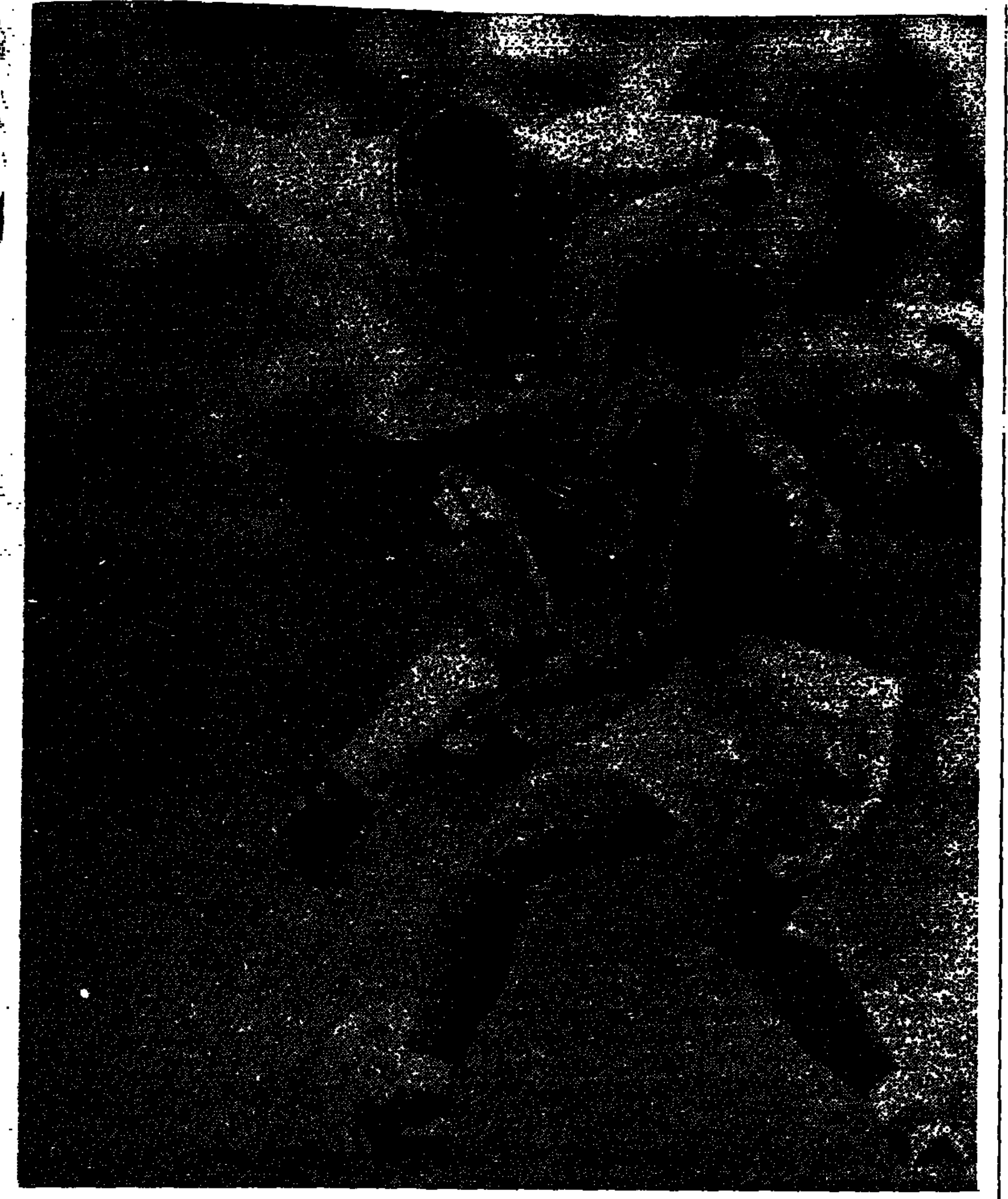
Among the participants was the Coptic Christian leader Pope Shenuda III as well as a representative of the Holy See, although his name was not given by organizers.

Islamic leaders were represented by the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Hamed al-Ghabed, the Sheikh of al-Azhar Egypt's highest Sunni Muslim authority Mohmamed Sayyed Tantawi as well as the Muftis, or religious leaders, of Bosnia and Bait ul-Moqaddas.

The conference was taking place in a large Cairo hotel and has mostly drawn religious affairs ministers, gathering a total of 300

(Contd on Pg. 15)





MIAMI, Fl, Ronaldo Luiz Nazario de Lima (L) of Brazil leaps in the air as he tries to dribble past Hungary's Attila Dragoner (R) during first-half action in their first round Olympic soccer game at the Orange Bowl Stadium in Miami July 23. Brazil beat Hungary 3-1. Nazario de Lima scored Brazil's second goal.

(AFP PHOTO)

Hashimoto Congratulates Japan's First Gold Medalist

TOKYO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto congratulated Olympic newcomer Yuko Emoto yesterday on winning Japan's first gold medal at the Atlanta Games but said her triumph had cost him a good night's rest.

Emoto, a 23-year-old insurance company worker who was last year's Pacific champion, threw down 1993 world light middleweight judo champion Gella Vandecaveye of Belgium for a clear-cut victory in the match, shown here in the early hours yesterday morning.

"Congratulations, really," Hashimoto told Emoto in a satellite television hookup with the gold medal winner in Atlanta.

"I'm not blaming you, but because of the match I didn't get enough sleep last night," the prime minister joked.

"It was really brilliant. I hope your victory will take the pressure off the other team members and help them compete well."

With three more titles left to be contested, the Japanese men face the danger of going home without any judo gold medals since the sport made its Olympic debut at the 1964 Tokyo Games.

Leading tabloid Nikkan Sports marked the victory with a special two-page edition, noting that Emoto was the first Japanese woman ever to win an Olympic gold medal in the judo competition. (AFP)

Australians Galloping to Gold

ATLANTA — Australia all but assured themselves of the Olympic three-day event team gold after a stunning performance over the equestrian cross-country course on Tuesday.

They came up from sixth place after the dressage to overtake the Americans and go top with 183.60 points. The second placed United States have 244.60 and New Zealand third with 255.80.

Now only a disastrous last day jumping will stop Australia from retaining the title they won in Barcelona.

But the day was filled with controversy as horse and horse slipped on the course which had been watered early in the morning.

British rider William Fox-Pitt, who had to remount after falling on the track, said: "It was like riding on black ice."

Four horses were injured but none of the injuries were related to the heat, said officials afterwards.

Frenchman Jacques Dulcy was the fastest clear in 9 min 52.6 sec, the only man to get inside the time limit on a treacherous course at the Georgia International Horse Park.

He was followed in by clear rounds from Andrew Hoy, with only 6.8 time faults, Philip Dutton, 8.8, and Wendy Schaeffer, with 11.6.

The fourth Australian, Gillian Rolton, completed her round with a broken collar bone and fractured ribs following a fall halfway round.

She was taken to Rockdale Hospital in Conyers for x-rays. Two top riders were forced out.

New Zealander Vikya Latta's broadcast news was retired after a heavy fall at the seventh fence.

Jill Henneberg of the United States has to retire after her horse Nirvana rolled on top of her after a fall at the second water complex.

"Superman" Karelin Takes Three in a Row

ATLANTA — Alexander Karelin muscled his way to a third Olympic wrestling gold in a row on Tuesday, and left American rival Matt Ghaffari feeling he's been fighting a monster.

Ghaffari took the Russian super heavyweight into overtime before going down 1-0 to a referee's decision in the Greco-Roman final.

There was simply no stopping a 28-year-old Siberian who has never lost an international bout, and who has won every world and Olympic title since 1988.

"It's like wrestling King Kong," Ghaffari lamented, who has never-beaten him in over a dozen attempts.

"If you want to beat Alexander Karelin, you've got to start teaching some technique to the strongest animal on earth, and that would be a great big gorilla," added Ghaffari, who sobbed as he collected his silver medal.

Ghaffari, who was born in Tehran, is actually the Russian's biggest admirer, keeping a picture and poster of Karelin in his training locker.

"He's a great athlete, and he works hard. The poster and the picture are staying in the locker," he said. "He's head and shoulders above the rest. I want to be as good as him one day."

Ghaffari made light of the rivalry between the two men, saying: "We have a mutual respect for each other. But we say 'hello' and joke around a bit. And I make fun of his haircuts."

"You've got to remember this was history in the making. He's never lost a match before so it's very hard for anyone to get up and beat him, especially in the Olympic finals."

Karelin's feat, which was all the more impressive after he lost three months' pre-Olympic training with an arm operation, was played down by the Russians. (AFP)

Penny Coins Another While Noodles power China's Strongman

ATLANTA — South Africa's "golden" Penny Heyns doubled up to win a second Olympic swimming title Tuesday, while a Chinese strongman fed with instant noodles set three weightlifting world records.

Heyns set an Olympic record of 2:25.41 in winning the 200-mtr breast-stroke to add to her 100-mtr title and world record of two days earlier. She joins the other double swimming gold medalists of the day, Danyon Loader, of New Zealand.

Loader added the 400-mtr freestyle gold to the 200-mtr free title he won on Saturday.

The 21-year-old Heyns once more had to hold off a furious charge from 14-year-old American Amanda Beard just as she had in the 100-mtr.

The 200-mtr was a tad too long for the South African, and a shade too short for the American.

"I think I need a 400-mtr breast-stroke," she said.

Loader, who was 17 when he won silver in the 200-mtr butterfly in Barcelona four years ago, won both golds with New Zealand records.

American Amy Van Dyken also upped her gold tally to two—one a relay gold—with a victory in the 100-mtr butterfly.

"Individual gold, there's nothing better than that," Van Dyken said, a sentiment shared by compatriot Mark Rouse.

Saudi Soccer Team Gets Scolding for Loss to Aussies

MIAMI — King Fahd's son, Prince Sultan, scolded Saudi Arabia's Olympic soccer team for losing to Australia and warned them not to repeat the performance, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported yesterday.

"We will not hesitate to ask for explanations from those who failed to live up to their task," according to the vice-president of the Saudi Olympic Committee, Prince Sultan ibn Fahd ibn Abdel Aziz, who is King Fahd's son.

"The Saudi side was a sorry sight against Australia and did not reflect the level football has attained in Saudi arabia," SPA quoted him as telling the team at his residence in Miami, Florida.

"This defeat must not happen again," Prince Sultan warned the players.

Australia beat Saudi Arabia 2-1 in the Olympic football tournament at the Orange Bowl in Miami on Monday putting the Saudi team in last place in Group b. The Saudi team have now lost both their matches so far. (AFP)

Teenager Kills Off Italy's Olympic Soccer Hopes

ATLANTA — Ghana pulled off a stunning 3-2 win over Italy in the Olympic Games soccer on Tuesday, inflicting the second early exit in a month from a major international tournament for the European giants.

Seventeen-year-old Christian Sabah scored twice for the African side and is already a leading contender for the goal of the Olympics.

Marco Branca twice put Italy ahead in the first half but Ghana brilliantly fought back even if the upset win at the RFK Stadium in Washington got some controversial help.

Sabah canceled out Branca's first strike with 14 minutes gone. Branca scored again two minutes from the break, but a hotly disputed penalty in the 62nd minute brought the sides level again.

Fabio Galante collided with Nigerian striker Emmanuel Duah while attempting to clear the ball. Italian players furiously protested the defender could not have seen Duah looming, but Galante was sent off and Augustine Arhinful sent the penalty kick into the top corner of the Italian goal.

Sabah's second goal in the 72nd minute was a screamer. The teenager controlled a fast moving ball, spun round and sent a 30-yard shot crashing into the Italian net.

Italy, who was also beaten 1-0 by Mexico, is bottom of Group C with two defeats from two games and now no hope of qualifying for the quarterfinals. Coming soon after the national side failed to get past the preliminary stages of the European championships, a major inquiry can now be expected when the under-23 team and coach Maldini return home.

South Korea and Mexico drew 0-0 in Birmingham, Alabama, and now have an identical record at the top of Group C with a win and a draw and the same goal difference.

Africa was also boosted by Nigeria's 2-0 win over Japan in Orlando which gave them top spot in Group D.

An own goal by Tadahiro Akiba in the 83rd minute gave Nigeria the lead. A shot deflected off Akiba's chest into the net. Augustine Okocha scored the second from another contested penalty kick in the 90th minute.

Brazil, which suffered a shock defeat to Japan, beat Hungary 3-1 to claw back into contention for one of two qualifying spots from Group D.

Ronaldinho shot Brazil ahead in the 34th minute, but Hungary equalized through Csaba Madar who took advantage of another mix-up between Aldair and Brazilian goalkeeper Dida. Aldair and Dida also collided to let Japan score its winning goal on Sunday.

Middlesbrough playmaker Juninho put Brazil back in front and Hungary's hopes disappeared when defender Vilmos Sebok was sent off in the 84th minute for the second of two clumsy tackles. Bebeto, who saw an earlier shot ricochet off the crossbar, fired in the third goal. (AFP)



ATLANTA, Ga Vyacheslav Oleynk of the Ukraine waves from the podium after he received his gold medal won in the Olympic Greco-Roman light heavyweight wrestling event July 23.

(AFP PHOTO)

Bomb Explodes Outside UN Police Station in Serb-Held Town

TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — A bomb has exploded outside a UN police station in the Serb-held northern Bosnian town of Doboj, a UN spokesman said here Wednesday.

Andrea Angelli, spokesman for the UN Police Force in northern Bosnia, was not able to say whether there had been any casualties or damage in the blast, which he said had occurred late Tuesday.

UN police operating in Serb-held Bosnia have in recent weeks received several threats of retaliation should arrests be made of Bosnian Serb leaders indicted for war crimes.

Two weeks ago, a UN vehicle was blown up with 1.5 kilograms (three pounds) of explosives outside another Serb-held town, according to UN officials.

Meanwhile, an unmanned IFOR plane carrying out reconnaissance over northern Bosnia has crashed, without apparently causing any injuries, a spokesman for the NATO-led force said Wednesday.

The plane crashed onto "private property" southwest of the northern Bosnian town of Brka early Tuesday afternoon, Captain Joe Amann said.

"We have no reports of any injuries and no indication yet of why it came down," he added.

U.S. troops based in northern Bosnia began late last week operating the unmanned reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft, which supply information about movements on the ground to Implementation Force (IFOR) commanders.

Brka is a Bosnian Muslim-held town just south of the sensitive Serb-held town of Brcko. (AFP)

Pakistani Opposition Parties Launch Joint Anti-Bhutto Struggle

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's opposition parties launched a united struggle Wednesday to oust Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto from power, accusing her of corruption, misrule and leading the country toward economic chaos.

But they did not spell out what steps they would take, saying in a declaration that a committee had been set up to formulate a joint action plan within 10 days.

"This government must be removed to save the country," said the declaration, issued at a news conference after a meeting of 13 main and fringe parties.

The parties asked President Farooq Ahmed Leghari to exercise his constitutional powers to dismiss the government and call fresh elections under a neutral caretaker administration.

They demanded setting up of a commission of superior judges to probe charges of corruption against elected representatives.

National opposition leader Nawaz Sharif, a former prime minister, said the parties would wage a "democratic" struggle, but did not rule out street agitation.

The Jamaat-i-Islami (JI), one of the component parties of the joint front, has already been engaged in a street campaign, holding rallies and demonstrations against the government since late June. (AFP)

Ultra-Orthodox Jews Plan Mass Rally in Sabbath Campaign

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — Ultra-Orthodox Jews are planning a mass rally of 200,000 in Bait-ul-Moqaddas on Saturday in their campaign to make the Sabbath more holy, a spokesman for the community said Wednesday.

"All our spiritual leaders are involved in this demonstration which will last for three hours on Saturday with the authorization of police," said Yehuda Meshi Zahav.

The demonstration will take place on Bar Ilan Street, one of Bait-ul-Moqaddas's biggest thoroughfares which religious Jews want closed to traffic on the Sabbath, from sunset Friday to Sunset Saturday.

Thousands of Ultra-Orthodox Jews hold rallies on the street every weekend, which has led to running battles with police and border guards. Next Saturday's rally will be the biggest yet, though police say the figure of 200,000 is an exaggeration.

The leftwing Meretz Party, which has been organizing counter-demonstrations on Bar Ilan, said it would play safe and avoid any rallies there this Saturday.

Under Jewish religious law, operating machinery is forbidden on the Sabbath, from driving a car to even switching on an electric light.

Secular Jews accuse the Ultra-Orthodox community of trying to impose their way of life on the whole of Bait-ul-Moqaddas and say they are determined to fight the "religious coercion."

But religious Jews are confident their views will prevail after their unprecedented success in Israel's May elections. (AFP)



Abbas Kowsari — Tehran Times

(Contd from Pg. 1)

MESSAGE...

Sheikh Hamad, who arrived here Tuesday evening at the head of a delegation on a 2-day visit, regarded his visit to Tehran as an indication of the importance both countries attach to expansion of bilateral ties.

Stressing upgrading of mutual and regional cooperation, Foreign Minister Velayati said Iran-Qatar relations serve as a good example of regional relations.

Velayati also voiced Iran's readiness to bolster bilateral relations with Qatar in all fields.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

BURUNDIAN...

Rumours of a coup were swirling in Bujumbura after the Unity for National Progress (UPRONA) denounced a September 1994 government convention that forms the basis for the country's institutions, providing a power-sharing agreement between the Hutus and minority Tutsis.

Meanwhile, fighting broke out Wednesday between the Tutsi-dominated Burundi Army and Hutu rebels in the southern province of Bururi, the army said.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

CHINA...

cation whatsoever to join the UN in any form," CUI said.

"The Taiwan issue is China's internal affair. We firmly oppose the interference in China's internal affairs by any country in violation of the guidelines of the UN Charter," he added.

Taiwan lost its membership at the UN in 1971 when the body overwhelmingly passed a resolution granting the China seat to Beijing instead.

Only 31 countries continue to recognize Taiwan and not mainland China.

"The UN resolution restored all the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China in the UN ... therefore frustrating a small number of countries' conspiracy to create 'two Chinas'," said CUI. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

GOLAN...

and international walls around him to win approval for his aggressive tendancies."

U.S. State Department coordinator for the Middle East Dennis Ross was due to hold talks Wednesday with Syrian President Hafez al-Assad amid a fresh diplomatic drive to bring Israel and Syria back to the negotiating table.

Ross will then travel on to Israel for talks with Israeli leaders.

In a parallel mission, French Foreign Minister Derve de Charette is on a whistle-stop tour of the region also hoping to revive the stalled peace process.

The English-language *Syria Times* wrote Wednesday that their "goal is one — saving the peace process from collapse, to which it has been exposed when Netanyahu came to power in Israel." (AFP)

De Charette also said he had invited Levy to visit Paris in early September.

De Charette arrived in the region Monday for a three-day tour which has already taken him to Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Gaza Strip. He was to end his visit later Wednedsay in Egypt.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

CHECHENS...

people, most of them civilians.

Meanwhile, Russian military officials quoted by ITAR-TASS said a meeting was expected to take place Wednesday between General Anatoly Kvashnin, commander of the northern Caucasus military region, and separatist chief of staff Aslan Maskhadov.

The separatist leadership Monday said they had agreed in principle to such a meeting, which would be aimed at relaunching an accord signed on June 10 at Nazran in neighboring Ingushetia.

The accord stipulated that most Russian forces would withdraw from Chechnya by September 1 in return for Chechen disarmament, and the republic would be demilitarized ahead of elections in which the separatists could take part.

Chechen warlord Salman Raduyev said Wernesday that he organized a failed bomb attack on a railway station in southern Russia last week, according to Russian television.

Raduyev, who was declared dead in March, reappeared in public last Thurstay to claim responsibility for two bombs on Moscow trolleybuses earlier this month in which 30 people were injured.

The bomb in Voronezh on Friday failed to explode, although a detonator went off. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

ISRAEL...

Since his May 29 victory over Shimon Peres, Netanyahu has refused to specify his plans on the redeployment.

Netanyahu has also alarmed Palestinians by pledging to expand settlements in the territories, ruling out any discussion on the future of Bait-ul-Moqaddas and rejecting the idea of a Palestinian state.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

AMNESTY...

ment's refusal to own up to its responsibility."

Amnesty also pointed to other instances in which civilians were deliberately killed during the 17-day blitz aimed at silencing Hezbollah rockets fired into northern Israel.

The organization said that a helicopter "deliberately attacked" a clearly-marked ambulance, killing six civilians, including four children.

Amnesty rejected Israel's claim that the vehicle had been carrying a "Hezbollah member," saying it was "certainly engaged in legitimate humanitarian activities when it was hit."

It also found no evidence to back Israel's assertion that Hezbollah activists were in a house in Upper Nabatiyeh when it was attacked by an Israeli warplane. Nine family members were killed, including seven children.

The organisation called on the Zionist state to investigate the civilian killings through a "proper judicial enquiry, and make recommendations to prevent unlawful killings in the future." (AFP)

(Contd. from Pg. 10)

THOUSANDS...

number of embryos to perish," Deech added.

"But if you think through the other options — of using them without the consent of individuals, or of keeping them stored indefinitely — these options are far less acceptable.

"Some have suggested that these embryos should be donated — or 'adopted.' This would be wrong — both legally and ethically," she said.

Earlier this year, the government ruled that the embryos could not be given away for adoption by the 68 British fertility clinics which store them. (AFP)

EAST MORICHES, NY, United States (July 23): The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Campbell cruises off the coast of Long Island, New York as crewmen in a small search boat pick debris from twa flight 800. The TWA Boeing was carrying 230 people when it exploded over the Atlantic July 17 and crashed into the sea.

(AFP PHOTO)

Ayatollah Jannati Reinstated as Guardians Council Secretary

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Secretary of the Guardians Council of the Constitution, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, was reinstated in his position by the unanimous vote of the council members in an election held on Wednesday to appoint the presidential board.

Ayatollah Imami Kashani was elected council spokesman and Ahmad Alizadeh was chosen as deputy secretary, according to the council's Public Relations Office.

The council also debated the amendment to the law on operating the commercial and industrial free zones of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which had been returned to the Parliament by the council due to some flaws and had been passed by Majlis following some changes. The council decided that the flaw still held.

Mersad Operation Drove Final Nail in Coffin of MKO

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — On the eve of the 8th anniversary of Mersad operation, the Information Ministry here Wednesday issued a statement commemorating the operation.

The statement said that the alert nation of Iran will never forget the lesson it took from Mersad which was alertness and preparedness against the enemies of the Islamic Revolution.

Eight years ago the greatest event in the history of the sacred defence of Islamic Iran took place, the statement said, adding that the event dealt such a blow on the global arrogance and its stooge, the terrorist Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO), that they will never forget it.

The terrorist MKO members were of the illusion of capturing Tehran and setting up a government there. But they were ignorant of the fact that only pious, committed people deserve to rule over the Muslim country of Iran.

The statement said that the MKO wrongly believed that the Iranian nation were not committed to the Islamic system. This is why they invaded Iran from the Iraqi soil. However the unfolding of event proved their miscalculation.

Mersad is an indication of solidarity and unity among people, Information Ministry's staff and the defenders of the perimeters of religion, the statement said.

On the eve of the anniversary of the Mersad Operation, the ministry commemorated the memory of the martyrs of the Information Ministry and Muslim combatants who devoted their lives for the sake of the sublime Islamic ideals.

Three More Basque Separatists Seized

MADRID (AFP) — Three suspected Basque separatists were arrested in Spain Wednesday 24 hours after French special police commandos seized a key figure of the ETA movement in what was being seen as a major blow against the group.

Spanish Interior Minister Jaime Mayor Oreja said two men and a woman were held in a dawn swoop at the Galician town of Pontevedra in the north east of the country.

Meanwhile in Paris Prime Minister Alain Juppe, flushed with Tuesday's French success, said the fight against ETA was one of his security priorities this year.

The Spanish minister said the three latest suspects were allegedly preparing an operation that would have been a kind of "crowning achievement" of ETA's recent series of bombings in Andalusia and Catalonia targetting the Spanish tourist trade.

On Tuesday French police moved in on a lonely farm in the French pyrenees near the Spanish border and arrested top ETA leader Julian Achurra Egurrola, in an operation reflecting a sharp increase in Franco-Spanish anti-terrorist cooperation.

Another five ETA sympathisers, including two women, were arrested Tuesday in a separate raid in the Val-de-Marne Department, southeast of Paris, the French Interior Ministry said.

This major combined haul was being seen as a serious blow at the heart of ETA, but Spanish security authorities in Madrid said the fight was far from over, because others were always on tap to replace those arrested.

Oreja told Spanish radio France was no longer a sanctuary for ETA members, who now must hide out in the Pyrenees.

The names of the three latest arrests in Spain were not immediately revealed.

In Paris, Juppe reaffirmed his government's determination "to fight ETA terrorism in perfect coordination with Spanish authorities."

The intelligence services described Egurrola, 37, as ETA's "lynchpin" figure, said to be third in the chain of command in the organization's military wing and thought responsible for logistics and arms.

Earlier this month, French Interior Minister Jean Louis Debre sought to deflect Spanish criticism that France was not cooperating enough in efforts to arrest suspected ETA activists, who are seeking to set up a separate homeland in northern Spain.

U.S. Envoy Meets Syrian President

LATAKIA, Syria — Syrian President Hafez al-Assad on Wednesday met with U.S. envoy Dennis Ross amid an intense diplomatic drive to bring Israel and Syria back to the negotiating table.

The two men met in the presence of Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shara, the U.S. ambassador to Syria Christopher Ross and his Syrian counterpart Walid Moualem, the president's office said.

On Tuesday Ross met with Shara at this Mediterranean coastal town to discuss the future of the peace process. Talks between Israel and Syria have been frozen for six months, and have made little progress since they were launched in 1991. (AFP)

President Says Stability Brings About Social Justice, Development

TEHRAN -- President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here on Tuesday gave credit to the Law Enforcement Forces for the country's state of security, which he said, has made it possible for the government to carry out construction projects even in the remotest areas of Iran, thereby helping realize the goal of social justice.

Social justice which Iran enjoys today is something unprecedented in the history of the country, the president said while addressing a graduating ceremony of an experts course for the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

The policy of the former monarchial regime, said Rafsanjani, was to keep the outlying areas of the country in a state of deprivation, and the regime pursued its evil goals by making the border areas insecure.

"Islamic justice makes us respect people's right even on the frontiers, and obligates us to set up industry, agriculture and universities for them," he stated.

The president questioned whether it was possible in conditions of instability to build dams on the border rivers or to install costly machineries and equipments on insecure borders?

He praised the determined efforts of the Law Enforcement Forces during the eight years of holy defense (1980-1988), and the continuation of their campaigns in the post-war period against drug traffickers.

"We could present to the others an excellent model," said the Iranian president, noting that many world countries feel unable or reluctant to confront the narcotic smugglers.

Present at the ceremony were Minister of the Interior Ali Mohammad Besharati and high ranking commanders of the army and IRGC as well as families of martyrs. (IRNA)

UN Peacekeeper Commits Suicide

NICOSIA — UN peacekeepers in Cyprus were Wednesday preparing to fly home the body of an Austrian soldier who shot himself in the Turkish-occupied north of the island.

UN spokesman Waldemar Rokoszewski said that Corporal Jort Schoeser, 21, shot himself on Tuesday. "It was a suicide. We don't know the reason," he said.

Schoeser was stationed with the 350-strong Austrian and Hungarian contingent in the ghost suburb of Varosha in Famagusta on the eastern coast of the breakaway Turkish-Cypriot Republic in the north. (AFP)



China Calls For "Flexibility" in Nuclear Test Ban Talks

JAKARTA — Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen Wednesday called on countries taking part in Nuclear Test-Ban talks to show "flexibility" but made no mention of a joint U.S.-Russian initiative to speed up negotiations.

Qian, speaking to the press before meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, noted that the final phase of negotiations for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) were to start in Geneva on July 29.

"It is China's hope that the parties concerned will demonstrate flexibility so that we can conclude the CTBT treaty as soon as possible and so that it can be ready for signature in September at the General Assembly of the United States," Qian said through an interpreter.

Christopher and his Russian counterpart Yevgeny Primakov on Tuesday issued a joint statement backing a draft compromise drawn up in Geneva on June 28, in a bid to speed conclusion of the treaty.

Their initiative was backed on Tuesday by Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda.

So far, China has called for the possibility of conducting nuclear tests for "peaceful" purposes. The United States and the other declared nuclear powers want a complete ban.

The United States has also stressed it wants the treaty to be signed on the sidelines of the UN's General Assembly at the end of September in New York.

In a speech here at a post-ministerial meeting following the security forum of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Christopher indicated he would try T7 convince China to join the U.S.-Russian effort.

The other country directly concerned by the CTBT is India, whose new Foreign Minister, Kumar Gujral, was to meet with Christopher on Thursday.

India has demanded the nuclear powers provide a precise calendar for the scrapping of their arsenals before it agrees to sign the treaty.

Qian and Christopher also praised recent progress in Sino-U.S. relations. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 4)

CAIRO ...

people.

"Political conditions don't allow us to invite Jewish religious authorities to such a conference. When a total peace reigns between the Arab states and Israel, then conditions will be right to invite them," Zaqzuq said.

Former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt was among the guest speakers. (AFP)

Bosnian Delegation to Conclude First Post-War Visit to Belgrade

BELGRADE — A senior Bosnian delegation was Wednesday to conclude the first such post-war official visit to the Serbian capital, where the two countries have agreed on the need for closer trade and improved relations.

The delegation led by Ejup Ganic, vice president of Bosnia's Muslim-Croat Federation, was due to meet with President Slobodan Milosevic Wednesday after a first session of talks Tuesday.

The delegation, including Bosnian Foreign Minister Jadranko Prlic and accompanied by U.S. ambassador to Bosnia John Menzies, was the first official delegation from Sarajevo to visit Belgrade since the Bosnian war broke out in 1992.

"We discussed visas, communications, rail traffic, air traffic. The two countries are closer than before," Ganic told reporters Tuesday after meeting with Milosevic.

Bosnian and Serbian officials agreed to "progressively renew" links between their two countries, the official Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported.

The two agreed it was "in the interest of the two countries to progressively renew their links and cooperation," Tanjug said, adding that the talks were taking place in an atmosphere of "frankness, understanding and respect."

Speaking in Sarajevo Tuesday, Menzies said the visit was "historic in many ways."

"We hope that some links will be developed and that diplomatic and political relations will begin. ... we are optimistic regarding the results," he said, without going into details.

Belgrade sponsored a vicious separatist insurgency by the Bosnian Serbs in which tens of thousands of Bosnians died and more than a million non-Serbs were expelled from their homes in the east and north of the country.

Since the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina ended last year, it has become possible to travel by road between Sarajevo and Belgrade. However, rail lines remain cut and telephone links, which resumed this week, are extremely limited.

Bosnian presidential aide Mirza Hajric said Monday Sarajevo had no conditions for establishing diplomatic relations but said that Belgrade had tried to "blackmail" Sarajevo on this issue.

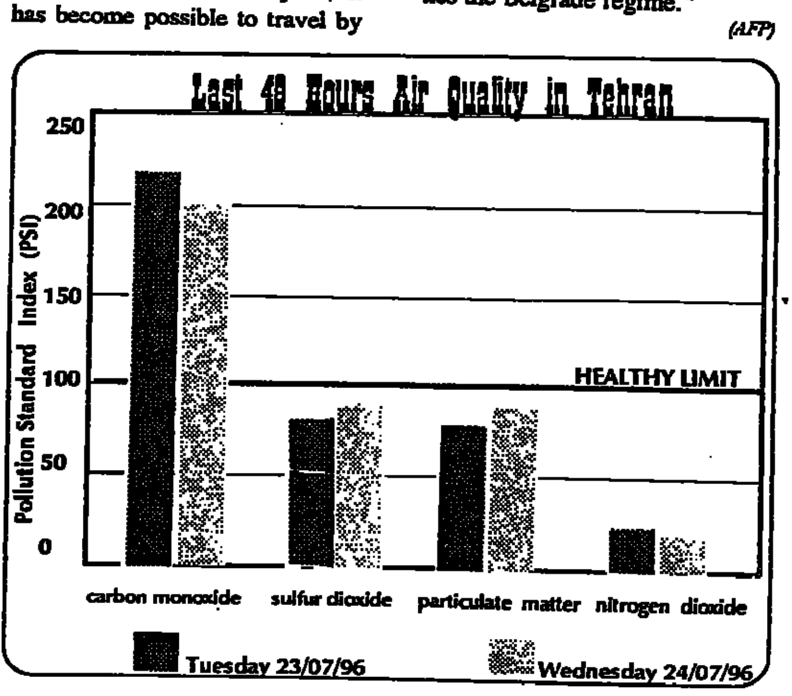
"Belgrade wants us to drop our case against them in the International Court of Justice and they wanted to do a deal on the property of the (old Yugoslavia)," Hajric said.

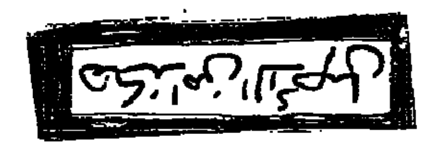
Sarajevo and Belgrade are both pursuing cases in the court in The Hague against each other for genocide. Belgrade's case was started in response to that of Sarajevo who hold the Serbian leadership responsible for sponsoring the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Since the break-up of the old Yugoslav Federation, ownership disputes involving all six former republics continue to rumble through the courts.

The Bosnian delegation were expected to return to Sarajevo later Wednesday.

The visit has riled opposition politicians in both countries. In Sarajevo, the opposition Liberal Party Tuesday criticized the visit which it said "in some way amnesties the Belgrade regime." (AFP)





Four Arrested in Urals for Selling Human Flesh as "Veal"

MOSCOW — Police in the Urals town of Berezniki have arrested four men suspected of trading in human flesh which was sold to consumers as veal, ITAR-TASS news agency reported Tuesday.

Police were tipped off after a local resident brought in a sample of the meat, dubious about its origins, and a medical expert confirmed that it came from a human being, a senior police official told ITAR-TASS.

The corpse of an elderly man was discovered in a local apartment during a subsequent police investigation. (AFP)

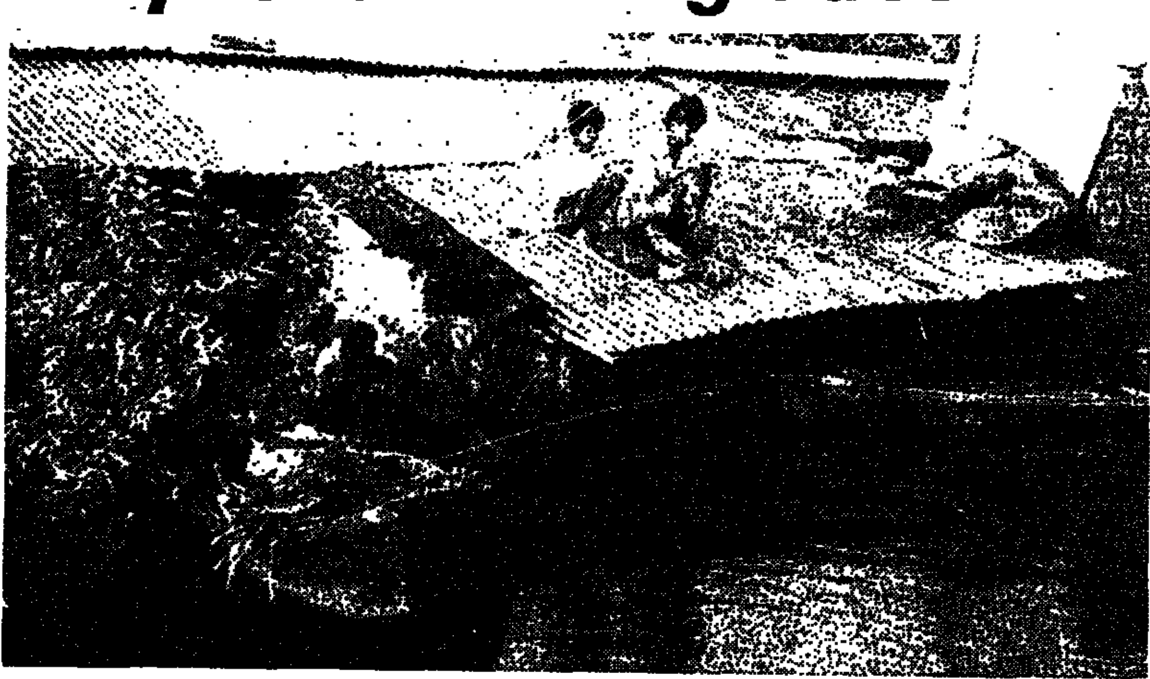
German Held for Smuggling 3,000 Serbian Tortoises

MUNICH, Germany — Customs officials in Munich said they had detained a man suspected of smuggling 3,000 rare and protected tortoises from Serbia for an estimated 500,000 marks ($327,000) over the past five years.

The 32-year-old suspect, an out-of-work German auto paint sprayer, was detained in the city of Augsburg with 328 tortoises in his luggage, "stacked up like plates", a customs spokesman said.

The man had admitted selling around 3,000 of the tortoises since 1991 for between 60 and 500 marks each. (Reuter)

Toll Rises to 50 as Floods Spread in Bangladesh



DHAKA, Bangladesh (July 23): Two boys fish sitting on their submerged home along with two women on a boat just outside Bangladesh's capital Dhaka, threatened by flash floods. Officials said 2.5 million people have been affected as the monsoon-linked floods gripped half of Bangladesh. *(AFP PHOTO)*

DHAKA — Flash floods have hit new areas of Bangladesh killing 11 more people and pushing the toll to 50, reports and officials said Wednesday.

Army and paramilitary troops are working round-the-clock to help the civil administration in an aid operation in the second round of flooding since early June.

The disaster has gripped 35 out of Bangladesh's 64 administrative districts.

A total of 50 people have died following reports that fresh flooding has claimed another 11 victims, the *Bhorer Kagoj* newspaper said, while the government has confirmed 19 deaths.

Flood Forecasting and Warning Division (FFWD) warned more low lying areas in the capital Dhaka and suburbs might be submerged by Wednesday in floods that had threatened embankments along the Brahmaputra, Ganges and Meghna rivers.

Telecommunications Minister Muhammad Nasim told the Parliament Tuesday night that the floods had destroyed 86,000 acres (34,400 hectares) of crops and partially affected another 164,000 acres (65,600 hectares) of farmland.

He also said some 590,000 families had been affected by the floods, which destroyed 73,000 houses and damaged 161,000. (AFP)

Eight Killed in Burmese Plane Crash

RANGOON — Eight people were killed and 18 injured when a state-owned Fokker-27 propeller plane crashed Wednesday in the southern Burmese town of Mergui, Transport Ministry officials here said.

The Myanmar airways plane carrying 49 people from the southern town of Tavoy crashed as it came in for landing at the airport in Mergui, about 540 miles (900 kilometers) southeast of Rangoon, the sources said.

Bad weather has been cited for the crash, in which the aircraft was almost broken in half when its undercarriage hit a brick barrier on landing, transport sources reached by telephone in Mergui said.

Transport Minister Lieutenant General Thein Win left for Mergui to investigate the accident and was expected to return to Rangoon later Wednesday, the source said. (AFP)

Burma Contact Group Proposal Comes Under Fire

JAKARTA — ASEAN has shot down a proposal for a United Nations Contact Group on Burma, with analysts saying the proposal reflected differences between East and West on how to deal with the military junta.

"They will win support from their friends, but not from ASEAN. ... I think they are barking up the wrong tree," Ahmad Kamil Jaafar, secretary general of the Malaysian Foreign Ministry, said of the Canadian proposal.

Canada's Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy on Tuesday proposed a UN-sponsored contact group that would open a multilateral dialogue with Rangoon's generals.

The official suggested the idea was a "bold new initiative on Myanmar (Burma) designed to get headlines in Canada" rather than to get results.

Meanwhile, China, India and Russia sought closer ties with ASEAN as they joined a wide-ranging dialogue with the trade-driven Southeast Asian grouping Wednesday.

The three countries take to 10 the number of full dialogue partners of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which engage in annual talks on an array of political, security and economic issues.

According to another report, China and rival Southeast Asian claimants to South China Sea islands have agreed to hold talks to discuss Beijing's unilateral extension of its maritime borders, Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi said Wednesday.

"China has given an explanation. We have agreed that we will continue to talk on this," the Malaysian official said.

In Beijing, a spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry denied any tension over the issue, saying the situation in the South China Sea region was stable.

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen announced that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher had accepted an invitation to visit China in late November. (AFP)

Third Hunger-Striking Prisoner Dies

ISTANBUL — A third leftist prisoner died in Bayrampasa jail here Wednesday on the 66th day of nationwide hunger strike in Turkey's prisons, his lawyers said.

Ilginc Ozkeskin, a 35-year-old medical doctor, died Wednesday morning after falling into a coma Tuesday night, they said.

Ozkeskin, allegedly a member of the outlawed revolutionary People's Liberation Army and Front (DHKP/C), had been on trial since 1994.

Two other prisoners, 25-year-old Aygun Ugur and 28-year-old Altan Berdan Kerimgiller, died in Istanbul jails on Sunday and Tuesday respectively.

More than 200 extreme leftist prisoners have been observing the hunger strike in at least 16 jails since May to protest against poor living conditions.

Sources said dozens of other hunger strikers were also in critical condition. (AFP)

At Least 25 Killed in Train Blast, Troops Retake Garrison

COLOMBO — At least 25 people were killed and 100 others injured Wednesday when two powerful bombs ripped through a crowded train at the edge of the Sri Lankan capital, state-run radio said.

Bleeding commuters were rushed to two hospitals after the bombs went off simultaneously in the second and seventh cars of the "Ocean Queen" train as it was pulling out of the Dehiwala Railway Station, witnesses said.

Many of the injured were in serious condition.

Sri Lankan troops on Wednesday took back a military garrison overrun by Tamil Tiger guerrillas after seven days of fierce fighting, a military spokesman said, but another source said there was no sign of life in the camp.

Hundreds of soldiers poured into the army camp in the northeastern town of Mullaitivu, some 320 kilometers (200 miles) from here, at about 4:00 p.m. (1130 GMT) and began a massive search for survivors, the spokesman said.

"We have reached and established ourselves in the camp," the spokesman said. He gave no further details.

But a military official said the reinforcements found no life in the camp, which had housed more than 1,000 soldiers when it was overrun by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) with a pre-dawn assault on July 18.

The LTTE has claimed slaughtering more than 1,200 soldiers and officers since the massive Mullaitivu attack, the biggest by the rebels to date. Colombo has admitted to losing a little over 300 men.

The LTTE has put its dead at 241, including 68 women, while the government has claimed killing more than 400 rebels. Military experts say both sides would have suffered several hundred dead. (AFP)

Hashimoto Vows to Combat Food Poisoning

TOKYO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto vowed Tuesday to take "every possible measure" to combat Japan's worst outbreak of food poisoning in half a century after three people died in less than 48 hours.

In a statement released after an emergency cabient meeting to discuss the unprecedented spread of the colon bacillus known as O-157, Hashimoto said measures of support would include medical treatment.

He also vowed to strengthen public health management and review hygiene procedures for the preparation of school lunches.

The meeting followed three deaths from the latest outbreak which has been concentrated in the suburb of Sakai in the western city of Osaka where more than 6,000 people have fallen ill since July 13, mainly schoolchildren.

"We now feel we can't simply label this outbreak as food poisoning. We need to treat it as a highly infectious disease," Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama told a news conference earlier in the day. (AFP)

Death Toll Nearly 1,000 in China Floods

BEIJING - Officials in the central province of Hunan said Wednesday flooding had reached alarming proportions, with 286 people dead and several million cut off, as the overall death toll nationwide climbed to 929 since floods hit at the end of June.

The National Civil Affairs Office said an additional 91 people had died in the province since Thursday, adding that floods had affected a total of 25.9 million people including 3.3 million completely cut off by rising water.

It added that 39 towns and districts had been completely inundated by water with hundreds of thousands of houses destroyed and 1.67 million hectares (4.12 million acres) of farmland washed out.

Total damage was valued at 39.43 billion yuans (4.75 billion dollars), it said.

Officials in the province were also deeply concerned about Lake Dongtin, the largest in the province, which for the last two weeks has exceeded danger levels.

Other new deaths have been reported in central Anhui and Guangxi provinces in the south. (AFP)

Khmer Rouge Step Up Activity

PHNOM PENH — Khmer Rouge guerrillas have stepped up activities in northern Cambodia, abducting 25 peasants last week and then slaughtering 21 of them for no apparent reason, the Cambodian government said Wednesday.

The killings in the northern province of Siem Reap was a brutal reminder that the rebels, although weakened, are still able to disrupt life in rural Cambodia, military analysts and observers said.

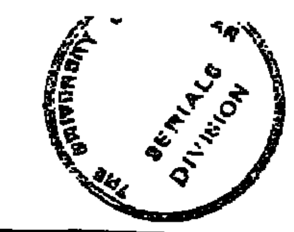
The rebels kidnapped 25 civilians from their village in Siem Reap's northernmost district of Samrong near the Thai border sometime between July 15 and 21, according to Information Ministry spokesman Sieng Lapresse.

He said precise details of the incident were sketchy, but that 21 of the 25 had been shot dead on the night they were abducted.

There was no demand for ransom and no apparent motive for the massacre, he said, adding the government believed the guerrillas were trying to destabilize the security situation in government-held areas. (AFP)



CHICOUTIMI, QUEBEC, Canada (July 23): Flood waters from the Saguenay River run through Chicoutimi, Quebec, damaging homes and roads. Ten people have died and many more are missing since the flooding began July 20. About 12,000 have been evacuated from the area. *(AFP PHOTO)*



U.S. Companies Cash In on Japan's Rich Mail-Order Market

TOKYO — Japan has emerged as the largest mail-order market outside the United States and the potentially rich pickings have sent U.S. companies scurrying for a presence.

But rather than worry, Japan is actively encouraging them, seeing benefits in promoting U.S. imports, bringing down the trade surplus and boosting consumption.

The American Catalog Square, which opened in Tokyo's Ikebukuro district last Friday, with a parallel operation in Kobe, and runs for six months, featured 104 catalogs from 96 U.S. direct marketing companies.

Japanese consumers imported about one billion dollars from international catalog houses last year, 80 percent coming from the United States.

The catalogs target a wide range of consumers, from fashion and beauty products, to sporting goods, outdoors, and household goods.

"Prices are significantly cheaper than most Japanese retail establishments," a U.S. Embassy official said, adding the catalogs also offered image-concious buyers products not normally available in stores.

George Mu, the embassy's minister-counselor for commercial affairs, said it was the third year for the catalog promotion in Japan, "the largest (mail-order) market outside the United States."

"catalog sales (in Japan) have been going on now, actively, for the past five years, with growth rates of 15 percent each of those years, maybe higher," Mu said.

"I think what they're beginning to find here with catalog sales, is the price, the selection, is really a bargain when you compare the price of the same or similar material here in Japan," he said.

"You're getting a lot more value ... irrespective of the exchange rate."

Mu said the next phase of mail-order would be to put catalogs online, which some companies are already doing through the Internet.

The U.S. postal service is recruiting companies to join an online catalog venture it is planning in Japan with its counterpart here.

The U.S. Post Office wants to set up video kiosks in high traffic locations, such as Tokyo's Shibuya Retail district, where consumers can browse through "electronic" catalogs, select items and place orders.

The kiosks are expected to be run in partnership with the Japanese Post Office, which already has in place its own International Mail-Order Support Services (IMOSS).

It displays Japanese catalog samples at 1,300 post offices around the country, with order forms for a copy of the catalog or products in them.

"A natural extension of IMOSS would be to have the video kiosk there as well," said Marc Fuoti, chairman of the Direct Marketing Committee at the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan.

Fuoti said the U.S. postal service "has enjoyed a tremendous amount of support" from Japan's Post and Telecommunications Ministry, as well as the International Trade and Industry Ministry.

The U.S. and Japan post offices already cooperate on an international parcel courier service, which Fuoti said competes "very successfully" with mainstream courier companies in mail-order deliveries.

"I think it's to put an exclamation point on the fact that the Japanese government is doing its best to reverse the trade deficit and to influence consumption at home, and also to promote American imports," Fuoti said of Tokyo's enthusiasm for encouraging the mail-order industry.

He noted the U.S. share of the one billion dollars in sales last year represented about two percent of the trade deficit, which last year was running $45.56 billion in Japan's favor.

Fuoti said that, with the right support, such as increasing the exemption on personal imports from 10,000 yen to 50,000 yen, the potential impact on the surplus would be considerable.

Yoshinori Suzuki, director of the import division in the Trade Ministry, said promoting mail-order sales from abroad "will prove to be of assistance in expanding imports from the United States."

Mu said success in Japan underscores the potential of other markets.

"Japan is really the forerunner. It has opened the eyes of American catalog houses that there is a whole world out there and their experience here has made them realize there is a lot of market potential," he said.

"Britain and Mexico are markets that are now being developed, a little bit behind Japan, but I hear companies talk about countries as far away as the Middle East and Africa. This is going to be a growing marketing trend." (AFP)



BRUSSLES, Beglium (July 22): British Agriculture Minister Douglas Hogg (L), his French counterpart, Philippe Vasseur (C), and Belgian Agriculture Minister Karel Pinxten laugh as the EU Agriculture Council opened its meeting in Brussels. Ministers are grappling for a crisis plan to support the beef market in crisis followed the ban of British beef products because of infection with bovine spongiform encephalopathy disease. The European Commission warned that offal from sheep and goats could also pose a danger to consumers. (AFP PHOTO)

Kuwait on Target for Oil Capacity of Three Million bpd

KUWAIT CITY — Kuwait is on target to increase oil production capacity to three million barrels per day before 2005 and is pushing ahead with international refining plans, the head of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said on Tuesday.

"Our plans at the moment show us that in the early part of the next century we should be at about three million" barrels per day (bpd) of oil, KPC managing director Nader Sultan told AFP.

This capacity "will increase by the year 2005," but he said Kuwait's potential as a low-cost producer with abundant reserves was constrained mainly by limits set by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

"We have huge reserves. If we run it like the north sea we should be producing eight million barrels (per day). But those are not our policies," the head of Kuwait's state-owned oil company said.

"We can't operate in that way because we have a leading role to play in OPEC," he added.

"Non-OPEC production, OPEC policy and Kuwait's share of OPEC's production are the three elements that will finally decide what Kuwait will produce," he said.

Kuwait currently produces two million bpd of oil, the limit set by OPEC, and has proven crude reserves of about 100 billion barrels. The government has been unsuccessful in its calls for a higher quota.

Sultan said KPC is moving ahead with plans to increase its international refining capacity, particularly in Asia where demand is growing strongly.

"We have to focus, like all other companies, on where we see growth potential and the growth potential is all in Asian markets and Asian-Pacific markets," he said.

KPC has set itself a target of building refining capacity of 400,000 bpd in Asia by 2000 through joint-venture operations.

A memorandum of understanding has been signed with the Indian Oil Company to set up a refinery with a capacity of close to 200,000 bpd in Orissa, India, Sultan said, adding that it was now "progressing to the next stage of setting up the joint-venture company and doing engineering studies."

A second refinery in India is already planned, alongside joint ventures in Thailand and Pakistan, all to be "built from scratch," Sultan said.

In Europe, KPC plans to raise its refining capacity to 300,000 bpd from 120,000 bpd at present, and will do so by buying stakes in existing refineries, Sultan said.

KPC is finalizing a contract to buy a 50 percent stake in Milazzo refinery, Italy, owned by the Italian oil company AGIP.

"We're in the very final stages," Sultan said, adding that a contract signing would take place soon.

KPC was set up by the government in 1980 as a holding company for all Kuwait's oil production, export and downstream activities. In fiscal 1994/95, KPC reported profits of 729 million dinars (2.4 billion dollars). (AFP)

Bank of Italy Slashes Discount Rate

ROME — The bank of Italy slashed its discount rate on Tuesday from 9 to 8.25 percent.

The previous change in the strategic rate dated back to May 29 last year, when it was lifted from 8.25 to 9 percent to check a plunge of the lira and to counter inflationary pressures.

The rate cut had been eagerly awaited by financial markets, Italian business and the center-left government.

The central bank said the move was due to the slowdown in Italian inflation noted the last few months. "It is realistic to expect the inflation rate to average less than 4 percent for 1996 as a whole", the bank said. "These results reflect the effects of the anti-inflationary monetary policy initiated in the summer of 1994.

"The monetary conditions are aimed at promoting a further decline of inflation to bring it below 3 percent (a year) in the next few months and in 1997".

The announcement immediately pushed prices up and yields down on bond markets, while the lira firmed slightly against the German mark to 1,015.75 lire to the mark against the previous 1,017.50. The currency also firmed to 1,514 to the dollar against 1,515.43. (AFP)

Cuban Economy Grows Despite Helms-Burton Law: VP

HAVANA — Cuba's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 9.6% in the first six months of 1996 despite strengthened U.S. economic sanctions, the island nation's vice-president said Tuesday.

At a news conference in Havana, Carlos Lage credited good performances by key sectors of the economy — among them sugar production and tourism — making it possible to forecast 5% GDP growth for all of 1996.

While Lage concedes that Cuba's economic recovery is rendered more difficult by the Helms-Burton Law, designed to tighten the U.S. embargo, he does not believe that it imperils the overall recovery process begun timidly in 1994.

He says that the law will not affect "the economic recovery and foreign investment in Cuba," nor what a Cuban interests section in Washington press release termed the "economic opening to the outside world."

Lage said that while the law has an "intimidation" effect, it has not deterred the creation of 25 joint ventures since its inception, and that 143 foreign investment projects are still under consideration.

Sugar production, which reached 4.44 million tons this year, grew by 33.6% compared to the previous year's production level. nonsugar industrial production rose by 10.9%.

Nickel production went up 31%, to 27,200 tons for the first six months of the year, the government said.

In the tourism sector, Cuba's largest source of foreign currency, the government reported growth of 38% over the same period last year.

Cuba uses one third of its foreign currency earnings to import oil.

In addition to foreign currency shortages, lage underlined other economic difficulties Cuba faces, including its inability to resort to international financial markets and a large national debt.

He characterized the daily life of most Cubans as still "very hard" because of poor nutrition, health care, and infrastructure. (AFP)

Agreement on Farm Issues in Brussels

BRUSSELS — European Union farm ministers reached agreement on reforming the fruit and vegetable sector, farm prices and the percentage of fallow farmland for 1996-97, and measures to support the beef market, a diplomatic source said early Wednesday.

A draft document covering all the measures was agreed unanimously by the 15 ministers.

Under the accord, intervention buying under the common agriculture budget can take place as of August 31 of beef from young cattle that were to have been fattened but no longer find a market due to the "mad cow" crisis.

French Agriculture Minister Philippe Vasseur held out for this move.

The operation could cover 150,000 animals aged eight or nine months for an estimated cost of 100 million ecus ($130 million). A million of these animals come on the market every year in France and are sold mainly in Italy and Spain.

Action is also foreseen to reduce production of beef in the medium term. Details are not given, but the move is believed to cover the slaughter and destruction of calves at the age of 10 days. A total 600,000 animals could be concerned and indemnity would cost around 130 million dollars. (AFP)

Shell Cuts 620 Jobs in Its Malaysian Units

KUALA LUMPUR — Two units of the Netherlands-based Shell Group in Malaysia are to cut 620 jobs in an across-the-board retrenchment set to start before year-end, a top official was reported Wednesday as saying.

Sarawak Shell BHD. and Sabah Shell Petroleum Co. are to trim their work force down to 1,800 from 2,437 on completion of the exercise, Sarawak Shell managing director Tan ek Kia was reported by the *New Straits Times* as saying in Sarawak.

About 420 employees will go by December, while another 200 will be retrenched by December next year, Tan said.

He said the group expects to pay about 100 million ringgit (40 million dollars) in compensation to the employees who are affected by the move.

Some 80 percent of the affected employees are junior staff while the rest hold senior positions, Tan said. (AFP)

Australia Bows to Asian Pressure Over Axed Aid Scheme

SYDNEY — Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer has bowed to Asian pressure and offered funding for major projects which had been axed with a controversial aid scheme, officials said Tuesday.

The move, described as "a humiliating turnaround" by the opposition, followed reports Australian companies had been blacklisted by an Indonesian agency over Canberra's decision to scrap the Development Infrastructure Finance Facility (DIFF) scheme.

It was canceled as a budget measure to save 20 million dollars ($95 million) a year in overseas aid, but government aid officials said its cancelation had cost Australia some 50 export contracts worth one billion dollars.

Downer has been in Jakarta this week for ASEAN talks but a spokesman in Canberra said Tuesday the minister had offered China, Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines transitional funding to go ahead with up to two projects each.

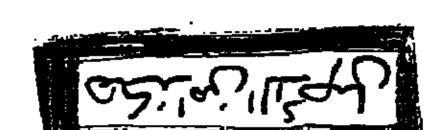
The spokesman said the move was "a genuine response to concerns expressed in the region about certain projects" but denied opposition claims it was a climbdown, saying it was "a very positive move".

The decision to axe the scheme sparked a bitter row in Australia last month, with industry groups, overseas governments, media and opposition MPs joining the attack on Downer and the new Conservative government.

Lawyers acting for some of the Australian companies involved said they were planning to sue the government in a multi-million dollar class action over loss of contracts.

The lost contracts include a 37 million dollar municipal solar electricity generating project in the Philippines, a transport system in Shanghai and a 40 million dollar environmental monitoring system for Indonesia

Downer faced three censure motions and under persistent opposition questioning, apologized to Parliament for falsely claiming that no overseas ministers had complained about the decision to scrap the Development Infrastructure Finance Facility (DIFF). (AFP)



TV Programs

Thursday Evening, July 25

National Network, Channel 1:

13:13 Focus on Family
14:00 News
14:30 Focus on Family
15:45 Kids Corner
16:30 News
17:00 Children's Program
18:00 Productivity
18:15 Lessons From the Holy Qoran
19:00 News
19:10 Focus on Imam Khomeini
19:45 Religious Program
19:50 Report on Majlis
20:25 Review of Day's Major News Stories
20:35 Call to Prayer (Azan)
20:40 Press Review
20:51 Religious Program
21:00 News
21:30 Commercials & Music
21:40 Summer 75
22:10 Religious Program
22:15 Weekly Quiz Show
23:00 Commercials
23:10 Feature Movie

National Network, Channel 2:

13:10 Religious Program
13:20 Interlude
13:30 Thoughts
14:00 Endless light
15:00 Football School
15:30 Meteorology
16:00 Preuniversity Program
16:30 Chemistry in University
17:00 Focus on Living (teaching requirements of life)
18:00 Computer
18:30 Scientific Notes
19:00 Children's Program
20:00 Summertime Program
20:30 Scientific-Cultural News
20:35 Call to Prayer (Azan)
20:45 Religious Program
21:00 Weekly Political Discussion
21:40 Iranian TV Series
22:30 News
22:45 Notes of Night
23:00 Great Philosophers
24:00 Documentary
00:01 Special Program on Imam Hassan Asgari's Martyrdom

National Network, Channel 3:

16:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
16:15 Religious Program
16:45 Sports Program
19:45 Sports News
20:00 Foreign TV Series
20:35 Call to Prayer (Azan)
20:45 Interlude
21:00 The Scenes
21:30 Interlude
21:45 Third Smile
22:45 News (in English)

National Network, Tehran Channel:

17:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
17:15 Advisors

18:15 Economic Magazine
18:30 Tehran News
18:45 In the City
19:00 Nature's Mirror
19:15 Other Kind
19:30 Tehran's Districts
19:45 Wildlife
20:00 Commercial Program
20:15 The Firsts
20:35 Call to Prayer (Azan)
20:45 In the City
21:00 The 5th Look
21:15 Nature's Mirror
21:30 Theater in TV
22:00 News
22:15 In the City
22:30 Religious Program
23:15 Focus on Cinema

Friday Morning, July 26

National Network, Channel 1:

10:45 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic
11:00 Message Network
12:25 Recitation of the Holy Qoran
13:11 Call to Prayer (Azan)

National Network, Channel 2:

08:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
07:15 The New Day
08:15 Football School
08:00 Religious Program
08:45 Great Philosophers
09:30 Interesting Places and Events
10:00 Children's Program
12:00 Eye-Witness
12:30 Foreigners' Shadow
13:11 Call to Prayer (Azan)

National Network, Channel 3:

07:30 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
07:45 Basketball
08:45 Third Smile (comic)
09:45 Report on Olympic Games
10:30 Foreign TV Series
11:15 Religious Program

Advertisers in China Urged to Promote Morality

BEIJING – Advertising agencies in China could be held responsible for promoting "traditional virtues" of the Chinese people with a new rule expected to come into effect in September, the *China Daily* said recently.

The new morality rule will require advertisers to launch "at least one advertisement" promoting "traditional virtues of the Chinese nation," such as practicing thrift and showing respect and love towards the aged and young, officials in charge of public service announcements told the daily.

The English-language daily said public service announcements had "attracted attention and aroused public interest in such issues as ethics, environmental protection and caring for old people, women and children."

However, this effort was not enough and a government circular "suggests that each specialized advertising company should produce at least one advertisement for the benefit of the public.

"Media organs should provide space or time to ensure the release of public-interest announcements and advertisements," the paper said.

The new rules complement a national advertising law that went into effect in February last year in an attempt to control China's booming advertising business. Advertising agencies had billings worth $27.33 billion last year, ten times the amount recorded in 1990.

$100 Million Boosts Health

Meanwhile, according to another *China Daily* report quoted by AFP, China has secured a UN donation of $9.5 million and a world bank loan of $90 million to upgrade health care for women and children across the nation.

The funds, which will be spent over a five-year period, will boost health services and education for 220 million people in 717 mainly poor and remote counties.

While aid in the poorest areas will be aimed at reducing infant and mother mortality rates, improvements in slightly wealthier areas will concentrate on better service networks, then more medical training and finally public health education.

China already has cooperative health projects with the provider of the UN donation – the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) – and other UN agencies, and has received health grants of $27 million in the last five years.

This sum was augmented by Chinese government contributions of $38 million and was used to train 760,000 medical personnel and equip 110,000 villages with modern medical facilities.

China's infant mortality rate fell from 37.61 per thousand births in 1981 to 32.90 per thousand in 1990. *(AFP)*

Last Challenge Fails to Avert Rights Curb

LONDON – A last ditch attempt to reverse government plans to deny social welfare benefits to many asylum-seekers has failed.

The upper chamber of Parliament voted 182 to 168 to uphold a House of Commons vote last week that overturned an amendment which would have given people three days – and not one, as the government wants – to apply for refugee status after arriving in Britain.

Monday's vote in the House of Lords means that those who do not declare that they are seeking asylum immediately upon entering the country would be refused housing and all other social welfare benefits.

The controversial asylum and immigration bill, aimed at curbing bogus asylum seekers and banning firms from employing illegal immigrants, is now likely to become law after it goes for royal assent.

After last week's Commons vote, opposition social security secretary Chris Smith bitterly declared that "what this government are trying to do is to starve genuine refugees out of this country."

But Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley, a prominent right-winger in the Conservative cabinet, said that taxpayers would save at least £80 million ($120 million) as a result of the amendment being rejected.

Prime Minister John Major's administration has sought to appeal to voters ahead of general elections due by mid-1997 with a clampdown on benefit fraud and a tough stance on immigration.

In February, Lilley introduced measures which would deny all social security benefits to asylum seekers whose applications have been initially rejected and who are appealing, as well as to those who did not apply for refugee status immediately on entering Britain.

But the Court of Appeal last month declared unlawful the government's planned measures, which would affect some 30,000 asylum-seekers a year, and denounced them as unacceptable in any "civilized nation."

The government then applied to the House of Lords to have the measures reinstated, but the upper house voted by 158 to 155 in favor of an amendment to the bill which would give a three- day period in which immigrants are to be entitled to apply for asylum.

This defeat led to last week's vote in the House of Commons, and then to Monday's vote in the House of Lords. *(AFP)*

Chairman of Estonia Ferry Inquiry Commission Resigns

STOCKHOLM, – The Estonian chairman of the commission investigating the cause of the 1994 Estonia ferry disaster in the Baltic Sea, in which 852 people died, has resigned, the Swedish daily *Dagens Nyheter* said.

Andi Meister, who had criticized the work of the Swedish experts, said he resigned for "health reasons" but the move "must be interpreted as a clear message" just months ahead of the publication of the commission's final report on the tragedy, the paper said.

According to *Dagens Nyheter*, the former transport minister had heavily criticized Swedish authorities in the Estonian media for the way in which they lead the investigation into one of the world's worst maritime disasters.

Meister said that the Swedish and Estonian experts would draw different conclusions on what had happened on the night of September 27-28, 1994.

He also complained to the news agency Baltic News Service that the Swedish experts had not presented certain video images of the wreck when the commission met on Friday in Helsinki, the paper said.

The Estonians had asked that divers film the captain's bridge of the Estonia in order to determine if the captain, Arvo Andresson of Estonia, had indeed been there at the time of the accident, which is the subject of much speculation.

The chairman of the Swedish inquiry commission, Olof Forssberg, on Monday responded to the criticism by saying that no body had been filmed and that Meister's accusations were the result of a "misunderstanding"

The Estonian experts presented no complaints at the Friday meeting, the Swede added.

According to Forssberg, Meister did not resign because of a disagreement on the handling of the inquiry. He also denied that there would be divergences in the contents of the final report, noting that the Swedes have yet to present their conclusions.

The inquiry commission, which also includes Finnish representatives, is expected to meet two more times – September 5-6 in Stockholm and again in October – before presenting its final report, scheduled for before the end of the year, Forssberg said.

The commission is attempting to find out why the vessel's outer bow door was ripped off, causing water to gush in and destabilize the ferry.

The nomination of Meister, while he was still minister, had been criticized at the time, primarily by the survivors of the Estonia and the families of the dead. They had questioned the independence of a commission headed by a minister responsible for maritime transport.

Intact Body Unearthed After 2,000 Years

BEIJING – Complete skeletal remains of a Han-Dynasty prince who died some 2,100 years ago have been unearthed in Xuzhou, Jiangsu Province, the official Xinhua news agency reported recently.

The remains were found in a lacquer coffin decorated with more than 1,600 pieces of jade.

Although the tomb was robbed soon after it was completed, it still contained 1,500 objects of gold, silver, bronze, iron, jade, pottery and lacquer, plus nearly 100 pieces of weaponry, 176,000 copper coins and 200 official seals, Xinhua said.

The prince, Liu Wu, was 1.72 meters (five feet, eight inches) tall and died when he was about 35, archaeologists said.

Liu was defeated and committed suicide after joining six other princes in a rebellion against the Han emperor, his cousin.

The coffin was found in a large tomb, located inside Mount Lion, where a precious jade robe had been unearthed earlier. Excavation of the tomb, begun in 1994, is continuing. *(AFP)*





TOKYO, Japan (July 22): Japanese Subaru Takahashi, a 14-year-old waves to wellwishers as he departs with his nine-meter (30-foot) yacht Advantage at Yumenoshima in Tokyo Bay. Takahashi set sail for San Francisco hoping to become the youngest person ever to cross the Pacific alone. (AFP PHOTO)

Scientists Foresee Human Memory Chip in 30 Years

LONDON (Reuter) — British scientists said they believed a memory chip that can preserve a person's thoughts and experiences would be available in less than 30 years.

The "soul-catcher" memory chip would be connected to the optical nerve in the eye and would store memory and sensual sensations such as smell, sights and sounds in the form of neuron pulses in the brain that can later be downloaded into a computer.

People would then be able to relive their own experiences or their memories could be transferred to another person's brain.

"This is the end of death — immortality in the truest sense," Dr Chris Winter, head of British telecom's artificial life team that developed the device, told reporters.

"By combining this information with a record of a person's genes, we could recreate a person physically, emotionally and spiritually."

Winter and his team compared the memory chip, which will have a memory capacity of 10 million megabytes, to the black box in an aircraft that records flight procedures and information.

"With these chips, we wouldn't have to rely on holiday snaps and our memories, we could simply play our experiences back to each other," said Winter, an expert in solid state physics and biochemistry.

The revolutionary development could also help people suffering from Alzheimer's disease and be useful in criminal cases like rape and robbery if the event is stored in the victims' memory.

BT has invested 20 million pounds ($31 million) in the project.

Nicotine Could Be as Addictive as Heroin

LONDON (Reuter) — Nicotine acts on the brain in a similar way to drugs like cocaine and heroin and could be just as addictive, Italian scientists said.

The researchers, writing in the Science Journal Nature, said their work went some way to refuting claims by the smoking lobby that tobacco was merely habit-forming rather than addictive.

The scientists said experiments on rats showed that nicotine stimulated local energy metabolism and the release of the neurotransmitter dopamine in the part of the brain associated with emotional expression.

The effects were the same as those triggered by cocaine and heroin and have been linked with addiction, said the scientists from the University of Cagliari in Italy.

"Our results are relevant here because they show that nicotine shares with addictive drugs a discrete neurochemical and functional property...this property might itself be critical to the addictive properties of nicotine," they wrote.

10 Ways to Lose Pounds

Trying to shed a few extra pounds? Don't worry that you'll have to starve yourself or do grueling workouts. Studies show these efforts may shave off the pounds quickly, but they are not the route to long-term weight loss. Surprisingly, the best way to take off weight is by making small, barely noticeable adjustments in the way you eat and live. Here are ten simple strategies that can help melt away your fat - forever:

1. Stop Skipping Meals: Slashing one meal per day from your menu seems like a logical way to peel off a few pounds. For instance, if you stop eating breakfast (typical 500 calories), you'll cut 3500 calories in seven days, roughly the amount needed to burn off one pound.

Trouble is, what you miss at one meal you often more than make up for at the next. In a recent study James Hill, a professor of nutrition at the University of Colorado, found that breakfast eaters consumed a diet lower in fat and higher in carbohydrates than breakfast skippers. Hill believes that having breakfast may reduce the impulse for snacking on high calorie, high-fat foods.

Obesity specialist Dr. C. Wayne Callaway of George Washington University in Washington, D.C., says skipping any meal can lower metabolism, which normally speeds up to help digest food. Let's say your body at rest burns 1600 calories daily. If you skip breakfast, you use up 80 fewer calories per day. But if you eat breakfast, your sluggish metabolism revs up to burn an extra 35,000 calories, the equivalent of ten pounds.

2. Go Vegetarian Twice a Week: Dr. Dean Ornish at the Preventive Medicine Research Institute in Sausalito, Calif., made headlines when he found that diet and life-style changes could help reverse atherosclerosis, the formation of fatty buildup on the arterial walls. But Ornish also discovered that the low-fat vegetarian diet he prescribed to help unclog arteries can trim waistlines as well. During the first year of his study, patients lost an average of 22 pounds.

This outcome was unexpected because most of the patients were eating more. Dr. Lee Lipsenthal, an Ornish colleague, explains it this way: "A candy bar and a bunch of fresh broccoli have roughly the same number of calories. After eating the candy bar you probably won't feel full. But you'll feel stuffed if you eat the brocoli."

Luckily you don't need to become a full-time vegetarian to lose weight. Start by replacing meat in two meals per week. Substitute diced vegetables- eggplant, mushrooms, peppers-for the meat in spaghetti sauce, or load up a pot of chili with vegetables instead of beef. Two meatless meals a week could save you 550 or more calories per week-ten pounds in 16 months.

3. Follow the One-to-One Rule: Americans have a gargantuan appetite for fat-free and reduced-fat foods. Unfortunately, "a lot of these foods have a high calorie count," says Barbara Rolls, a professor on nutrition at Pennsylvania State University. "So some people take the low-fat label as a license to eat."

The solution is to employ the one-to-one substitution rule. That is, when you replace a regular brownie with a fat-fee one, eat the same portion-not a bigger piece. If you cut back each day from four ft-free sandwich cookies (200 calories) to two (100 calories or pass on a second scoop of fat-free ice cream (100 calories), you can lose ten pounds in ten or 12 months.

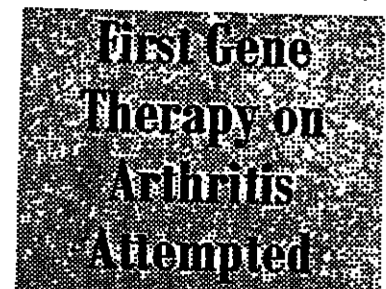
4. Don't Cut Too Many Calories: You must eat less to lose weight, but don't go overboard on cutting calories. Otherwise the body senses impending "starvation" slows down metabolism and conserves energy by functioning on fewer calories. This "fuel efficiency" mode will make it harder for you to lose weight.

How few is too few calories? To prevent a metabolic slowdown, you'll need to take in at least enough daily calories to meet the energy demands of your body at rest. Dr. Callaway offers these simple formulas to estimate your resting metabolic rate- that is, the number of calories your body needs each day to function at rest.

Another way to find your proper calorie level is to keep a food diary. Pick up an inexpensive calorie counter at the bookstore and keep track of how much you eat. Then cut back 50 or 100 calories each day. Eventually you'll find a calorie level that will promote slow, steady weight loos-and you'll be able to shed ten pounds in 12 to 24 months.

5. Beware of Finger Foods: It's Monday and you've already had breakfast. But how much difference can two mini-doughnuts (120 calories) at the office really make? On Tuesday you filch a few Oreo cookies (1600 calories) before supper. And so it goes, all week long. You might not think twice about eating these snacks, but snitching just 100 extra calories a day can make you gain ten pounds in a year.

If you can't give up finger foods, why not replace high-calorie items with low-calorie ones? Ready-to-eat baby carrots (4 calories each), celery (6 calories per stalk) or air-popped popcorn (30 calories a cup) are some options. If you eat 75 fewer calories a day, you can lose ten pounds in about 16 months. (To be continued)



WASHINGTON (AFP) — A 68-year-old woman has become the first patient to undergo gene therapy for arthritis, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center announced.

It represented the first such study for an autoimmune disorder, in which a person's immune system attacks the body's own tissues, the university said.

The gene therapy, is aimed at blocking cellular events that lead to erosion and inflammation within human joints affected by rheumatoid arthritis.

"We are optimistic that this type of intervention will someday halt the biological processes underlying these diseases," said Chris Evans, principal investigator for the study.

Another researcher noted that current therapies, while reducing pain, do not stop the progress of rheumatoid arthritis.

The patient received injections of her own cells into the knuckles of one hand. The cells were cultured and modified to carry a gene that blocks both joint erosion and inflammation.

Forty million Americans are afflicted with some form of arthritis. Rheumatoid arthritis affects 2.1 million Americans, mostly women.

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T R E T E U X — 3rd Letter Triple — RACK 1

O R L D E T A — RACK 2

D Y I M I A D — Triple Word Score — RACK 3

S S U I E N S — RACK 4

PAR SCORE 150-160 by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). Judd's solution on Saturday

11-29-94 © 1994, United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

Here is the solution to yesterday's Scrabble

SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD © 1994, United Feature Syndicate, Inc

P U N T E D	RACK 1 =	9
S H I M M Y	RACK 2 =	24
T I N S E L S	RACK 3 =	64
H I N D E R S	RACK 4 =	61
PAR SCORE 100-110	JUDD'S TOTAL	158

11-28-94
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HEALTH CAPSULES®
by Michael A. Petti, M.D.

IS IT HARMFUL IF YOU DON'T GET ENOUGH SLEEP EVERY NIGHT?



BESIDES FEELING TIRED, YOU'LL BE LESS EFFICIENT, LESS CREATIVE, MORE FORGETFUL, MORE IRRITABLE, AND YOU PROBABLY WON'T LIVE AS LONG.

Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.

Ripley's Believe It or Not!

IN THE 1600s, ACTING WAS CONSIDERED TO BE SUCH AN EVIL OCCUPATION THAT ACTORS FROM ENGLAND WERE FORBIDDEN BY LAW FROM EMIGRATING TO America!

"NO TRESPASSING"

"TIKE" A SHEEPDOG OWNED by Joseph Tagg of Derbyshire, England, SPENT 15 WEEKS GUARDING THE BODY OF HIS MASTER AFTER THE MAN BECAME LOST and DIED ON THE Howden Moors! (1953-54)

Believe It or Not! THERE IS A STREET in Savoy Court, London, England, WHERE MOTORISTS ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO DRIVE ON THE WRONG SIDE of THE ROAD!

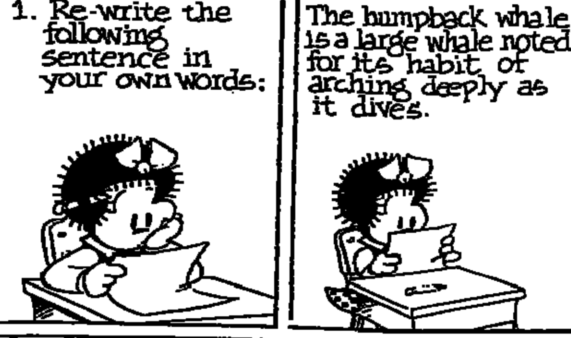
FERD'NAND ® by Henrik Rehr

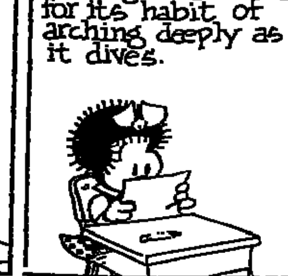


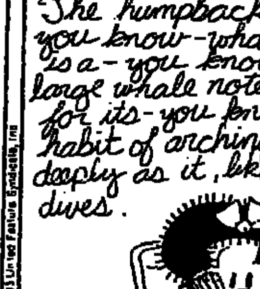
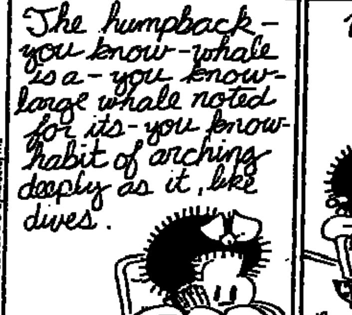




NANCY ® by Guy & Brad Gilchrist







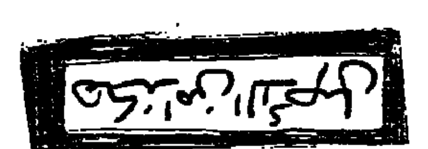
THOUGHT

WHEN goods do not cross borders, soldiers will.

(Frederic bastiat)

PRAYER

Noon	13:11
Evening	20:36
Dawn (tomorrow)	4:17
Sunrise (tomorrow)	6:08



IN THE NAME OF GOD

CAO.IRI

International Tender No. 1375/5/15

Iranian Civil Aviation Organization intends to purchase 5 units recorders, in accordance with extant technical specifications.

Representatives of qualified companies can obtain tender documents against delivery of written demand from related company and receipt of payment for amount of Rls.30,000 to the Account No. 108 with Khazaneh Bank Markazi from 3/8/1996 until 28/8/1996, on official period.

Bid bond is $5,000 or Rls.15,000,000 banker's cheque or creditable bank guarantee that should be issued in favor of Civil Aviation Organization by an Iranian bank and delivered with tender documents.

- ☑ **C.A.O. can reject any or all proposals.**
- ☑ **All the charges of advertisement should be borne by winner of the tender.**

Address: General Dept. of Supply Services, Building No. 8 of C.A.O., Mehrabad Int'l Airport, Tehran-Iran.

GENERAL DEPT. OF SUPPLY SERVICES

Past, Present and Future of Afghanistan -- Ahmad Shah Masud

On the military and political situation in Afghanistan, Ahmad Shah Masud said, "Our strategy has been one of being on the defensive mainly. Since the last Taleban offensive failed (October 1995) we began political activities in order to finish the last excuse of the opposition groups not to talk to us. We promised to meet them in their headquarters, we announced we were ready to transfer power. We made contacts with all the groups. Younis Khalis, Sibghatullah Mujadeddi, Pir Gailani, Gulbuddin Hekmetyar, Jalalabad Shura and through Khalis with the Taleban. We were ready to transfer power to Younis Khalis. Mehmoud Mestiri (the UN mediator) had made a list of Afghan personalities and we were ready to accept it, if the list was accepted by the others. The talks have gone well with some groups such as Hekmetyar, Khalis and Gailani. Gailani's representative is in Kabul and we have built excellent relations with the Jalalabad Shura. From the very beginning our delegations went to Mazar to see Dostum. His last answer to us was that he would give his response only after discussing it with those countries that are helping him — Uzbekistan, Turkey, the U.S. and Pakistan. He told us he would announce whether he would join us after these discussions with other countries. We are waiting to see whether Dostum will be allowed to talk to us by those countries that are helping him.

As for the Taleban, the *Nation* quoted Shah Masud as saying, "The Taleban made some military advances in October but they were pushed back by us. The Taleban have rejected any kind of discussions with us. It has held a meeting and announced a man to be the Ameer ul Momineen, not just for the Taleban but for all Afghans and for all Islamic countries including Pakistan. Anyone who does not accept this Ameer ul Momineen will be declared against the Jihad. We are not planning any large offensive. But day by day I believe the resistance will build up against the Taleban. There will be clashes between them in Khost and Pakthia. The situation is not in their favor. A few days ago there was an uprising against them in Wardak Province and the locals disarmed the Taleban. But the Taleban made a counter offensive to recapture those areas. Resistance against the Taleban is growing in Ghazni, Wardak and Logar provinces.

Asked about the situation in Herat, he said in Herat, urban opposition has started in the city and in the rural areas. There have been over 70 Taleban casualties in 13 fights between locals and the Taleban in Herat. The commander of a Taleban armored division has been killed. We don't think there will be a cross border operation (by Ismael Khan) because Iran will not allow this. But there is no need for one .

The situation is ready for an uprising in Herat because the people hate the Taleban. The Heratis have great experience of guerrilla warfare and the Taleban are considered a force of occupation. I think the way to liberate Herat is through local guerrilla war and not frontal attacks from Iran. The Taleban's attitude has created enough hatred amongst ordinary people.

On the pact with Hekmetyar, Masud added we have convinced our forces that they have to integrate with Hekmetyar's forces. As days go by this relationship will improve especially when we share the same trenches against the Taleban. We are not in a hurry to form an interim government. The aim is to finish the fighting and to achieve this we should integrate with other forces also.

On Pakistan's alleged help to Taleban, we have seen no decrease in Pakistan's support and the delivery of arms and ammunition has continued. On Saturday (May 18) a large amount of money was given to the Taleban and Dostum by Pakistan. The plane that carried money to Dostum flew over Ghazni and Dostum's brother was a passenger in the plane. The first step Pakistan should take is to stop help to opposition groups. This would be positive if it is implemented, I believed that Pakistan should change their strategy of the past four years. They should reverse it.

Following is the excerpts of an interview with Ahmad Shah Masud published in the Islamabad-based Nation daily on June 4, 1996.

Masud said his problem with Pakistan, goes back to the years of the Jihad. During the Jihad Pakistan wanted a puppet regime in Kabul that would take orders from them. Pakistan wanted at that time a weak, dependent regime in Kabul and they counted on Hekmetyar. The assistance given to Hekmetyar during the Jihad was very different from that given to other parties. Secondly Pakistan always believed that the collapse of the Kabul regime would come from the southern front. They have always been wrong. Before the withdrawal of the Soviet troops, they invited me to meet them (1989). I told them to come and see me. We agreed to meet in Badakhshan and there I met Brigadier Janjua. Janjua explained how they have planned to bring down Najibullah in a few days and in the plan for capturing Kabul they had trained special groups to control law and order in the city after capturing it. He requested me not to interfere in Kabul and he called me not to move on Kabul. My answer was that we are fighting for our country and I told him that his plan would not work. I said the strength of the forces he had shown in his plant by the various parties is not the real position. I said it is just the imagination of these parties who want more money from you. Pakistan never believed that the forces of the north (Tajik and Uzbeks) could take Kabul. That has always been the crux of Pakistan's problem with us and why they have created so many problems for us. They always wanted Kabul taken from the south (Pakhtuns).

The second problem during the Jihad was that the ISI always used wrong intelligence. It never knew what we were doing in the north. I was always surprised how uninformed the ISI was about the north. Many journalists covering the Jihad were better informed of the realities in Afghanistan. Then I met the ISI chief General Durrani (1991). He tole me they had a plan to capture Kabul and that everyone had approved this plan when I saw the plan I was surprised how uninformed the ISI was. Most of their information was based on what Hezb-e Islami had told them and it was false information. Based on wrong intelligence the ISI has made an unintelligent plan. It was unrealistic and when I explained to them the real conditions, the winter, the strength of the Mujahideen they did not believe me. Durrani's last plea was that the army chief General Mirza Aslam Beg had approved the plan and only he could change it. Although I had not planned to go to Islamabad I went there to meet Beg and discuss the plan. I found him a sound person. He realized the mistakes they had made in the plan so he decided to abandon this plan. Nevertheless when Najibullah fell (April 1992) due to the offensive by the forces of the north Pakistan was surprised. The Pakistanis were taken completely by surprise. That's why their policies have failed one after another.

On the destiny of Pakistan and Afghanistan, the interests of the Pakistani people and the Afghans was sacrificed by wrong policies during the Jihad when the people of Pakistan helped the Jihad. Most Afghans consider Pakistan as their second country and all Afghans have good memories of Pakistan. The whole Afghan nation was satisfied with the help provided by Pakistan during the Jihad. Pakistan's politicians should have used this relationship in a more clever way. I believe if Pakistan had sound policies after the collapse of the Soviet Union the two countries would have been the most important in the region and in regional politics Pakistan and Afghanistan would have had the last word. But Pakistan missed this opportunity. So the destiny of the two nations was given to a few people in the intelligent services who fed their governments and their people with wrong information and created a lot of problems between two nations which had fought together for 14 years. Ask any ordinary Afghan what he thinks and he will tell you the same.

On bringing peace between Pakistan and Afghanistan, he said the initiative must come from Pakistan. What is going on is neither to the benefit of Pakistan nor our own people. We believe we should leave this wrong path that has come between us. And the policy played out during the past four years has not benefited us or Pakistan. This atmosphere should change. In our past meetings with the Pakistanis we talked to them frankly and said the policies should change but the same policies have continued. I am personally disappointed because I don't see a power center in Pakistan to make this decision to change policy. When Benazir Bhutto was coming to power there were hopes for a change but we have bad very bad experiences with her.

As for help from India and Russia, Masud said this is all a creation by Pakistan and the ISI in order to justify what I have done and to provoke public opinion against us in Pakistan. We are receiving no military help.

I explained every thing to General Iftikhar (former deputy DG) in Kabul last year.

At the end of the meeting he said now he had no worries about Indian involvement and he was convinced about it. But when he returned to Pakistan the propaganda against him increased. Also how can anyone believe that the Russians can help.

At the end of the interview he expressed optimism on regional stability.

"Judge Me by My Acts" Asks Niger's New Military President

NIAMEY — Niger's newly elected military president asked the international community to judge him by his acts and said he hoped to form a government of national unity with candidates he defeated.

"The international community must have confidence in us, and I want it to judge me on my acts and not on preconceived ideas," said General Ibrahim Bare Mainassara, who was confirmed as the winner of a controversial presidential poll held earlier this month.

Three of the four defeated candidates, including the former president ousted by Mainassara in a January coup, the United States and a U.S. nongovernmental organization, the National Democratic Institute, have shed doubt on the credibility of the poll, which Mainassara won in the first round with 52.22 percent of the vote.

"It was Niger's election and the people have their say," said Mainassara during an interview granted to two foreign press reporters.

"We need to be objective. We shouldn't see democracy in the sense it has been imported and transposed on Niger. This democracy has shown its limitations because it is not suited to the realities of our country," he said.

He said Monday's discussions with two of the defeated candidates, former President Mahamane Ousmane, who came second in the poll with 19 percent of the vote, and Mamadou Tandja (15 percent) focussed on the possibility of forming a government of national unity.

"National unity is possible, we need the will of one and all," he said.

All four defeated candidates were held under house arrest between July 9 — the day after the two-day poll — and Monday, when Mainassara lifted the warrants restricting their movements.

On the economic situation in Niger, one of the poorest countries in the world, where political bickering led to a year of institutional paralysis before Mainassara staged his coup, the general said "the past has taught me a lesson."

"Others were more concerned with their own interests. If we continue down that path, we too will fail miserably," he said, going on to call on all his compatriots to build up the country.

He warned, however, that "unpopular measures" may need to be taken to "put right the moral climate" before Niger itself could be put right.

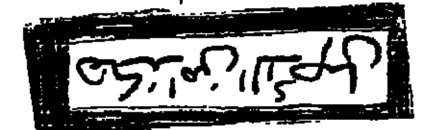
Mainassara said he was shocked by the laziness of the people. "Elsewhere (our citizens) wash windows and shine shoes even in the middle of winter, but once they get home to Niger, they just sit around."

He said he wanted to "put the people back to work and to fight corruption, the diversion of public funds and tax fraud."

On the Tuareg rebellion, a major issue since it broke out five years ago, Mainassara said there had been "some positive developments in recent weeks, and we see the future with more serenity." (AFP)







Intel Unveils Free Telephone Software for Internet

SANTA CLARA, California – Intel Corp. unveiled a free communications software program for long-distance telephone calls on the Internet based on an industry standard.

Designed to function under the Windows 95 operating system, the new software is based on a standard adopted in March by 120 companies, including Microsoft Corp., the world's leading software maker.

The introduction by Intel, the world's leading microprocessor maker, and its wide industry acceptance boosts chances the new standard will become nearly universal, observers said.

The common standard will allow users of different computers and different phone software to talk to each other and exchange data, sounds and images long-distance at the cost of the local telephone connection to the Internet.

The Intel product, called an "applet", is the latest sign of the Internet's growing competition for telecommunications companies, analysts said. In a few years, phone companies may have to discard their charges per long-distance calls and adopt monthly fees based on service levels.

"The dynamics of this Internet phone market are about to change forever," Jeff Pulver, an analyst at Pulver.Com, was quoted as saying Monday in the *Wall Street Journal.*

"It's going to change from a hobbyist's toy to something business people and consumers are going to use to get around long-distance costs."

Internet telephone use until now has been limited to a few, and the technology had required that both the caller and receiver have identical software. Quality of the transmission was poor, and connections frequently were lost.

"The reason we did our phone was that there were a lot of Internet phones out there, but the frustration level was high because the phones didn't talk to each other," Intel's marketing manager Frederick Yeomans told the newspaper.

To promote the new common standard, known as H.323, Intel will make a test version available at no charge on its World Wide Web site starting Wednesday.

The software also will help Internet users find other Internet phone numbers on the worldwide computer network. A user would be able to access a directory service, click on a name and the call will automatically be put through.

Microsoft plans to introduce its version of the longdistance software in September. (AFP)

Soweto Uprising Horrors Recalled

SOWETO, South Africa – Photojournalists and former students relived the day 20 years ago when white police gunned down 12-year-old Hector Peterson, sparking a huge uprising in South Africa's largest and most famous black township.

Testifying at the first day of hearings in Soweto of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which is probing apartheid era abuses, witnesses told how a June 16, 1976 student demonstration, and subsequent killings by police, have become etched in public memory.

Former photographer Sam Nzima, who took a now-famous picture of the slain Peterson, spoke angrily of how police used live ammunition against the students, during their demonstration against Afrikaans-language schooling.

"They (the police) were shooting to kill," he said. "They were not shooting at the air or the ground."

Peterson was the first person to die in the riots which claimed 575 lives and left more than 2,000 wounded in the subsequent four months, according to official estimates.

Nzima, who is now a small business owner in Mpumalanga Province east of Johannesburg, said he had been forced to give up journalism because of harassment from police over his famous photo, which has been used in numerous publications about the apartheid era.

"They (the police) were shooting to kill. They were not shooting at the air or the ground."

Nzima complained he has never been paid "a cent" in picture royalties by the *World* newspaper, a predecessor of the *Sowetan*, South Africa's largest selling newspaper or the Irish-owned *Independent Newspapers*, which now owns the photo.

Montsisi said that he and his fellow students at the time, had heard that a police helicopter had brought bodies to a cemetery in Soweto under cover of darkness. Previously open graves were later found to have been sealed in a careless manner after the helicopter's unexplained landings in the cemetery.

Peter Magubane, a photographer for *Time* magazine and other international publications, told AFP how "the entire township erupted" soon after Peterson's death, and students began destroying anything belonging to the government.

In subsequent months and years, police hit squads became common in the township, with one group of white policemen infamous for their random drive-by shooting sprees from within a green car, Magubane said.

Magubane, who was himself later shot by police and detained without trail, said he was lucky to persuade angry students on June 16 to let him take pictures which could be used to expose the horrors of the apartheid regime.

"This country would still be where it was, if we had not convinced the children to show the world how they were brutalized," he said. "There would be no history of those days."

Dan Montsisi, a Soweto student leader and now a member of Parliament with President Nelson Mandela's ruling African National Congress (ANC), asked the commission to probe the disappearance at the time of the riots of several young activists whose bodies had allegedly been secretly buried by the police.

Montsisi said that he and his fellow students at the time, had heard that a police helicopter had brought bodies to a cemetery in Soweto under cover of darkness.

Previously open graves were later found to have been sealed in a careless manner after the helicopter's unexplained landings in the cemetery, Montsisi said.

Ellen Khuzwayo, also now an ANC parliamentarian, testified to the Truth body how she quit her job as a teacher in the 1970s because the education system for blacks was "poisoning our children."

Khuzwayo said that apartheid South Africa's education system for blacks, called Bantu education, breeded an entire generation of violent children.

"The children wanted to get rid of the poison," she said. "They became very angry."

In contrast, she said, native education, which was operated by missionaries and church groups until the 1960s, educated an entire generation of elder leaders, including Mandela.

Antoinette Sithole, Peterson's sister, told the commission that she hoped the government and communities would begin to rebuild the damage to buildings and halls that were burned down during unrest.

The Truth body, which began meeting in April, has heard hundreds of stories of human rights abuses committed by supporters of white-minority rule and their enemies in the antiapartheid movement. (AFP)

Black Briton Paralyzed After Racial Attack

POTSDAM, Germany – A 21-year-old German was in custody after an attack in which a black British worker in Germany ended up paralyzed in intensive care in a Berlin hospital after racially motivated assailants threw a stone at his car, police said.

Police said the incident occurred five weeks ago. The pursuers, several young men in a car, had overtaken the Briton's vehicle and thrown a stone which smashed through a side window.

The driver lost control and the car went off the road and into a tree. Two passengers were slightly injured.

A 21-year-old German, identified by police only as Heiko H., was arrested Monday after the victim recognized him from a television report after first failing to make an identification from a photograph taken when the suspect was originally held.

Police were withholding the name and details of the British victim, described him only as a construction worker who has lived for some time in the town of Mahlow near Berlin.

According to one report, the Briton had complained of numerous incidents of racial harassment.

A spate of racially motivated crime against non-Europeans occurred in what was formerly East Germany after reunification with West Germany when German skinheads and other right-wing racial elements suddenly began victimizing non-European ethnic minorities resident in the country.

British workers have been among the extra labor drafted in to help in reconstruction in Berlin and other parts of East Germany following reunification. (AFP)

VALENCIA, Spain (Espana) (July 20): Spanich "banderillero" Jose Garcia "Alcalare o Hijo" is caught by the second bull of the evening during his fight at the "July Festival" in Valencia. Jose Garcia was seriusly injured in the attack.

IBM, Mitsubishi Electric to Tie Up

TOKYO – Japan's Mitsubishi Electric Corp. has said it had agreed with International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) of the United States to sell the IBM-made PowerPC microprocessor under its brand name.

The agreement also allows the Japanese Electric Machinery maker to add customized functions to the chips, the two companies said in a joint statement.

Sales and service would be provided by Mitsubishi Electric.

Mitsubishi plans to develop portable communication devices which could be installed with the Mitsubishi chips and provide access to the Internet, an official said.

The agreement between Mitsubishi and IBM covers the PowerPC family of microcontrollers handling specific functions in electronic devices, including PowerPC 401GF chip, announced last month by IBM, the PowerPC 403 chip, and the PowerPC 602 chip used in game players, the statement said.

PowerPC chips are a reduced instruction-set computing (RISC) chip developed by IBM, Motorola Inc. and Apple Computer Inc.

Industry consultant Dataquest forecasts the worldwide market for microcontrollers would be worth more than $20 billion by 1999, double that of 1995.

Meanwhile, AFP reports from Tokyo that Japanese electric machinery maker Mitsubishi Electric Corp. said it had launched wholly-owned VSIS Inc. in the U.S. computer heartland Silicon Valley. (AFP)

Greenpeace Warns Against Unregulated Genetic Testing

AARHUS, Denmark – International ecology organization Greenpeace has warned of "acute risks" from the unregulated testing of genetically-engineered plants such as tomatoes in developing nations.

In a statement released at the start of global negotiations on a biosafety protocol, Greenpeace urged governments to introduce a moratorium on all field-testing and release of such plants.

"Unregulated field-testing of genetically manipulated plants threatens to cause genetic pollution and damage to the environment and economy of developing countries," it said.

Genetic engineering allows the transfer of genes between totally unrelated species and Greenpeace said food companies believe it can improve the quality of certain foodstuffs.

Greenpeace conducted a case-study in Guatemala which found that a company had imported and genetically-tested tomatoes, squash and cantaloupe without taking measures to prevent genetic pollution of which there was "an acute risk" and a threat to natural species.

The introduction of improved commercial species "could totally displace other varieties and accelerate the disappearance of native cultivars," it said.

The biosafety protocol is being negotiated in Aarhus, Denmark, as part of the biodiversity convention agreed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. (AFP)

Thousands of Frozen Embryos to Be Destroyed

LONDON – Thousands of unwanted frozen embryos at test-tube baby clinics are to be destroyed by thawing next week, a health watchdog announced here.

The Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority (HFEA) said that under present law, frozen embryos, consisting of four to eight cells, must be allowed to perish after five years unless parents consent to further storage.

The 900 couples who contributed the 3,300 embryos in question have been untraceable or have refused to express their wishes for the future of their potential offspring, it added.

Controversy has surrounded the move, with test-tube baby clinics, pro-life campaigners and infertile women saying they should be allowed to develop into babies and then put up for adoption.

Life, the national anti-abortion charity, called the decision to dispose of the embryos "scandalous."

"The code of practice requires that embryos created by in-vitro fertilization should be 'allowed to perish' and 'disposed of' in a respectful and 'sensitive' way," a spokesman said.

"But what is respectful and sensitive about throwing these tiny human beings into incinerators along with dirty swabs and bits and pieces from operating theaters?"

Ruth Deech, who chairs the HFEA, said the move to destroy the embryos was far preferable to other options such as adoption, which she said was legally and ethically wrong.

"The regulations allow many parents to extend their consent to 10 years or more in some exceptional cases.

"But if that consent cannot be obtained, the storage has to cease, which means, sadly, allowing a

(Contd on Pg.14)

U.S. Threatens Probe If UN Funds Used for Boutros Reelection

UNITED NATIONS -- The United States on Monday threatened to investigate any use of UN personnel or funds directed towards the reelection of UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

James Rubin, the spokesman for U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright, told reporters that Washington's opposition to a second five-year term for Boutros-Ghali was "irreversible."

Moreover, he said, "we had concerns that UN employees and resources were going to be expended in an effort to obtain or pursue the reelection of the current secretary-general.

He said "that would be inappropriate, and if that were to happen, we would want to look into the appropriateness of any officials at the UN or resources going into that purpose."

The United Nations is currently in the throes of a financial crisis and is owed 3.1 billion dollars by member states. Roughly half is owed by Washington which has been withholding funds until wide-ranging reforms are implemented.

On June 19, Boutros-Ghali announced that he would run for a second term, anticipating publication of a *New York Times* article announcing that Washington had decided to oppose his candidacy.

Since then, the United States has made it clear that it would use its Security Council veto to block Boutros-Ghali who has made it equally clear that he will use his support among Third World and nonaligned countries to fight to the bitter end. His mandate ends on December 31.

Washington blames Boutros-Ghali for the UN failure in Bosnia, and believes that a change in leadership is needed to reform the UN bureaucracy and cut costs.

Within UN Security Council, whose five permanent members make the decision on the next secretary-general behind closed doors. China, France and Russia have lined up behind Boutros-Ghali, while Britain sits on the fence saying that he has "performed honorably."

A decision on Boutros-Ghali's future could come any time after the start of the UN General Assembly session in September, although diplomats say that the choice may not be made until after the U.S. elections in November.

Monday's statement by Rubin appeared to quash the possibility evoked by some diplomats that U.S. President Bill Clinton and Boutros-Ghali might agree on a compromise allowing the 73-year old Egyptian to remain in his post for another two years.

Boutros-Ghali last week refused to discuss the reasons for his candidacy, saying he had to pay attention to "daily problems" as secretary-general. *(AFP)*

More Former Cambodian Refugees Return Home



PHNOM PENH -- Twenty-four Cambodian boatpeople who fled their country among waves of refugees in the turmoil of the previous decade were repatriated Tuesday, leaving less than 60 still in camps overseas, officials said.

"The plane landed, they are all off safely and are now getting their food rations and will then be taken back to their homes," said a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) official who met the 24 at Phnom Penh's Pochentong International Airport.

"There were no problems," the official said.

The 24 former refugees had been living in the now-closed UNHCR camp in Sungei Besi, Malaysia and were flown from Kuala Lumpur at the UN's expense, said Peter Van der Vaart the UNHCR Cambodia Representative.

Tuesday's operation marked the second mass repatriation of Cambodian boatpeople since July 1.

On July 10, nearly 300 Cambodians who had been at the Galang Island Refugee Camp in Indonesia were repatriated by boat, but a large number of them initially refused to disembark, claiming they had been unfairly treated.

The returnees have been unable to satisfy requirements for placement in a third country.

Less than 60 of the 360,000 Cambodians who fled the Khmer Rouge genocide in the 1970s and the decade-long civil war that followed now remain outside of Cambodia without a third country to live in legally.

About 50 of them are in Thailand and there is one family still living in a refugee camp in Hong Kong, Van Der Vaart said.

They are all expected to return to Cambodia in the near future, he said. *(AFP)*

UN Says Military Meeting to Be Held in Cyprus This Month

NICOSIA -- A UN official in Nicosia announced Monday that a meeting between the head of the Greek-Cypriot national guard and the commander of Turkish forces in Cyprus should be held before the end of July, the official news agency CNA reported.

"The date of the meeting is currently being studied by the military leaders and the aim is to hold it in July," UN representative in Cyprus Gustave Feissel said after a 45-minute meeting with President Glafcos Clerides.

The meeting, the first of its kind since the partition of Cyprus into Greek and Turkish sectors in 1974, had been announced last Thursday by U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright during a visit here.

"For the first time, the sides have indicated a willingness to convene a meeting of the commander of the (Cypriot) national guard and the commander of Turkish forces in Cyprus, under the auspices of the United Nations commander as soon as possible," Albright told reporters.

"I believe that such a meeting can help avoid misunderstandings ... to reduce tensions along the buffer zone," she said.

Albright also urged steps to reduce the size of military forces on the two sides of the island, which has seen a sizable buildup in recent years.

About 1,200 United Nations peacekeepers patrol a buffer zone separating the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities.

Albright led a high-level U.S. delegation to Cyprus to attempt to lay the groundwork for the opening of comprehensive peace talks between the two sides. She described the military meeting as a "first step on a long road" to a peaceful resolution.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkish troops invaded the northern third of the island in response to a coup in Nicosia inspired by the military junta ruling Greece at the time.

Turkish-Cypriot leaders set up a breakaway republic in 1983, but it is only recognized by Ankara which maintains an estimated 35,000 troops there backed by 400 U.S.-made tanks.

-There are 11,000 conscripts in southern Cyprus where the government has spent two billion dollars in the past three years on new weapons.

The United Nations recently issued a report expressing serious concern about the military build-up on both sides of the island and recommended measures towards a gradual demilitarization of Cyprus. *(AFP)*

UN to Consider Permament War Crimes Court

GENEVA -- Individual heads of state could be brought before a permanent international criminal court for acts of aggression or war crimes under new United Nations proposals unveiled Tuesday.

Leaders responsible for genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity would no longer be able to think they can rest easy, said Algerian lawyer Ahmed Mahiou, chairman of the UN's International Law Commission.

"For the first time we are telling heads of states: This is what awaits you if you commit these crimes," said Mahiou.

The proposals will be put to the next UN General Assembly, although Mahiou conceded that it might be difficult to have them passed. The United States and Britain, among others, have expressed reservations about setting up a standing tribunal.

The measures would accompany the UN's criminal code which defines "crimes against peace and security of mankind" under the 1949 Geneva convention.

The idea of "aggression" which until now only concerned specific states, such as the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, would now also be applied to the individuals responsible, Mahiou told a press conference.

If a permanent tribunal was set up, it would no longer be necessary to establish individual international war crimes tribunals such as those for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, he said.

He cited the example of Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, who Mahiou said was "in a trap" after being indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal at The Hague for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

However Karadzic remains at large despite agreeing to step down as Bosnian Serb "president" last week.

The law commission's proposal outlines five categories of crimes -- aggression between nations, genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes against United Nations personnel and their associates.

War crimes would concern both international wars and internal conflicts where crimes, such as rape, abductions or random executions, were committed "in a systematic manner" or "on a large scale," said Mahiou. *(AFP)*

UNHCR:

Bosnian Serbs Use Aid to Blackmail Displaced People

GENEVA -- The UNHCR has protested to the Bosnian Serb authorities, accusing them of using humanitarian aid to blackmail people into voting for them, a spokeswoman said Tuesday.

The organization's representative in Bosnia, Soren Jessen Petersen, expressed his "profound concern" after receiving proof that the Serbs were using humanitarian aid for political ends, spokeswoman Christiane Berthiaume said.

"The UNHCR considers this scandalous and unacceptable," she said.

Berthiaume said that the UNHCR, the NATO-led Implementation Force and other international bodies had found proof that the Bosnian Serbs were telling displaced people they would receive no aid or help to rebuild houses unless they promised to vote for the ultra-nationalist Serbian Democratic Party.

The Bosnian Serbs were also telling people from the Muslim-Croat Federation that they should register to vote in the Republika Srpska instead of in their place of origin.

Under the electoral rules for the Bosnian general elections in September, voters can choose to vote where they were registered in 1991 or in their current place of residence.

Berthiaume said the UNHCR was waiting for a response from the Bosnian Serb authorities and was trying to find ways to distribute aid fairly.

The spokeswoman was not able to say how many people were affected by the blackmail.

She said that in the northern Serb-controlled town of Banja Luka, 420,000 people were dependent on humanitarian aid and 285,000 were displaced from the Muslim-Croat Federation. *(AFP)*

EU Warns It Might Pull Out of Mostar

MOSTAR, Bosnia-Herzegovina -- The EU administration in Mostar might be withdrawn because of the refusal of hardline Bosnian Croats to attend the city council, an EU spokesman said here.

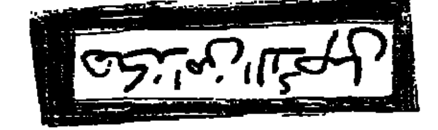
EU spokesman Dragan Gasic said the EU official in charge of Mostar had asked the EU presidency to consider pulling the administration out because it was not able to fully exercise its mandate.

"We have explained the situation that we are in to the Irish presidency of the European Union, which will have to decide whether or not we pull out of Mostar," Gasic said.

Hardline Bosnian Croats on Tuesday boycotted the first sitting of the Mostar city council, setting off a new political crisis and raising fears for Bosnia's September polls.

The Croats lost the June 30 elections, the first in Bosnia since the war, to a mainly Muslim coalition that called for the reunification of the divided city.

Tuesday they boycotted the first session of the city council. They want their protests over alleged electoral irregularities to be heard by the constitutional court of the Muslim-Croat Federation. *(AFP)*



USA Wins Women's Gymnastics Gold

ATLANTA — The United States won the women's team gymnastics title here on Tuesday ahead of Russia and world champions Romania.

They scored 389.225 points to Russia's 388.404. Romania took the bronze with 388.246.

A total of 49.073 points on the uneven bars put the Americans in command while Russia, leader after the compulsories, received only 48.474 on the vault.

The Russians, feeling the pressure from the sell-out crowd, didn't help themselves either by making two huge errors on the vault and on the bars.

Rozalia Galiyeva didn't make the landing on the vault, getting 8.575, and in the next rotation, Elena Dolgopolova fell off the bars.

"The Americans had an extra player on their team — the fans," said Russian coach Leonid Arkaev. "It was impossible to battle against the crowd and the judges." (AFP)

Instant Noodles Provide Instant Success for Chinese Lifters

ATLANTA — A diet of instant noodles fueled China's Zhan Xugang to a staggering three world records and the Olympic gold medal in the 70-kilogram weightlifting class on Tuesday.

Zhan and coach Yang Hanxiong revealed that the Chinese camp had predicted the food at the athletes' village would not be to their taste and shipped in instant noodles by the container full.

"As we thought the food here is not to out liking," said Yang. We brought in a lot of instant noodles — that is our premier weapon in these Olympics."

The Chinese have done spectacularly well in the lower weight categories and Yang has been wearing a broad smile since day one.

Zhan added to the gold medal won by Tang Ningsheng in the 59kg class while Zhang Xiangsen lifted silver in the 54kg division and Xiao Jiangang bronze in the 64kg.

Yang added that a different attitude to training and a good period of acclimatization had been other factors in their outstanding displays.

"We have been preparing for this for two years," he said. "Eastern Europeans were good in the past at doing as well in training as in practice but we were weak at this.

"Now we practice like it is the real thing — every Friday we have a competition amongst the lifters.

"We arrived here well in advance to get used to the time difference and when here found that the training conditions were good."

The 22-year world champion Zhan broke the world snatch, clean and jerk and overall marks to underline his dominance in the category.

Zhan won with a total of 357.5kg (162.5kg, 195kg) ahead of Kim Myong-Nam of North Korea with 345kg (160kg,185kg) and third placed Attila Feri of Hungary on 340kg (152.5kg, 187.5kg).

The Chinese, who jumped with joy and fell on his backside after his last lift, took all three world records from Kim who set them at the Asian championships in April.

Employing a typically Chinese style of squatting low before making the lift, he beat the snatch mark by 1.5kg, the clean and jerk by 1.5kg and the overall total by five kilograms.

Zhan, whose eyes bulge with the effort of each lift, said that although Kim beat him in the Asian championships he was confident of winning as he had lifted well in practice.

"Kim broke all three world records in the Asian championships but in training my results were better and I thought that it was my turn to break all three records and get the Olympic gold," said Zhan.

"I hurt my back in April but I recovered fully in May and my practice sessions went well. Kim is stronger in the snatch and I thought if I could equal his lift I would be better than him in the clean and jerk."

Silver medalist Kim and third placed Feri chose not at attend the press conference to air their views on the competition. (AFP)




ATLANTA, GA, United States (July 23): Combo of two pictures of Matt Ghaffari (L) of the U.S. sobbing on the podium after losing to Russian Alexander Karelin (R) in the Olympic super heavyweight Greco-Roman wrestling final. Karelin won his third straight Olympic title.

(AFP PHOTO)

Having Fun With the Devil

ATLANTA — Olympic newcomer Yuko Emoto thanked her relative obscurity for allowing her a pressure-free giant-killing run to earn Japan its first judo gold at the Atlanta Games on Tuesday.

"I was not rated as a strong competitor and I was free from great expectations," said the 23-year-old. "I enjoyed myself."

Emoto, the pacific champion and 1994 Asian Games silver medalist, said she had heard horror stories about competitors breaking down and failing at the Olympics.

"My coach and team manager told me there is a devil in the Olympics. But I have sensed a very good atmosphere. Maybe God has been on my side," said Emoto:

She beat defending champion Catherine Fleury of France, 1994 Olympic silver medalist Yael Arad of Israel, and 1995 world silver medalist Jenny Gal of the Netherlands to reach the light middleweight final.

She then floored Belgium's 1993 world champion Gella Vandecaveye with an inner-thigh throw to win the title.

Vandecaveye said the silver medal would complete triple for her country.

"Belgium now has a silver to go with its gold and bronze," said the 23-year-old European champion.

Her teammate Ulla Werbrouck won the women's light heavyweight gold and Harry van Barneveld took the men's heavyweight bronze for Belgium. (AFP)

First Blood to Cuba in War Against U.S. Boxers

ATLANTA — Cuba seized an early psychological advantage over fierce Olympic rivals United States when Maikro Romero outpointing Eric Morel in the first summit clash of the tournament here Tuesday.

Amid an anti-Cuban atmosphere of a baying capacity home crowd in the Alexander Memorial Coliseum, Romero outboxed Puerto Rican-born Morel to end America's winning six-bout start to the competition in a clear-cut 24-12 points decision in the first round of the flyweight class.

Booed at the introductions, Romero got away to a flyer amassing a 9-1 first round lead before 20-year-old Morel sprung to life and took the fight to the Cuban, splitting the second round, but unable to match it in the deciding round.

"The first round cost me the fight," said Morel. "I didn't do my thing, I didn't carry out what my coaches told me and it is all my fault that I lost," Morel said.

"The things I did in the second and third rounds, I should have done in the first round. I started too slow."

Romero staggered Morel with a right followed by a left hook and the referee issued a standing eight count on the American just seconds before the end of the first round.

Head U.S. coach Al Mitchell was typically upbeat despite the setback before his home fans.

"I'm not worried about medals, I'm taking it one bout at a time... you ask me about medals next week," he said. (AFP)

Olympics Medals Table

ATLANTA — Olympic medals table after Tuesday's events (AFP)

	gold	silver	bronze	total
United States	9	12	3	24
Russia	9	5	2	16
Poland	5	2	1	8
China	4	5	3	12
France	4	3	6	13
Italy	3	2	3	8
South Korea	3	1	2	6
Turkey	3	0	1	4
Belgium	2	1	1	4
South Africa	2	0	1	3
Ireland	2	0	0	2
New Zealand	2	0	0	2
Cuba	1	4	2	7
Japan	1	2	0	3
Australia	1	0	5	6
Ukraine	1	0	2	3
Romania	1	0	1	2
Armenia	1	0	0	1
Costa Rica	1	0	0	1
Kazakhstan	1	0	0	1
Germany	0	6	9	15
Belarus	0	3	1	4
Greece	0	2	0	2
Brazil	0	1	2	3
Sweden	0	1	1	2
Austria	0	1	0	1
Finland	0	1	0	1
Great Britain	0	1	0	1
North Korea	0	1	0	1
Spain	0	1	0	1
Uzbekistan	0	1	0	1
Hungary	0	0	5	5
Bulgaria	0	0	4	4
Netherlands	0	0	4	4
Canada	0	0	2	2
Georgia	0	0	1	1
Moldova	0	0	1	1
Yugoslavia	0	0	1	1



ATLANTA, GA, United States (July 23): Turkey's Olympic team gold medalists pose for photographers at the Turkish House in Atlanta. From L: Halil Mutlu, 54kg weightlifter gold medalist on July 20, Hamza Yerkikaya, Greco-Roman wrestling middleweight gold medalist on July 21, and Naim Suleymanoglu, who set a new combined world record lift and won the featherweight division gold medalist July 22.

(AFP PHOTO)



ATLANTA — Jeff Rouse's 100m backstroke gold was four years behind schedule, but nonetheless welcome for that.

Rouse was the reigning world champion when he lost the gold to unheralded Canadian Mark Tewksbury in Barcelona.

He was so stung by the defeat, and by charges that he choked in the final, that he went out and set the world record in the medley relay.

After winning the 100m backstroke on Tuesday, Rouse said his Barcelona roller coaster made it possible for him to have his Olympic triumph in front of home fans in Atlanta.

"I thank Mark Tewksbury for beating me in '92, because I wouldn't be here except for him," the 26-year-old said. "As I was hearing the Canadian anthem, I committed myself then and there to winning the gold in Atlanta."

The 1994 World Championship silver medalist added: "As far as being tagged a choker, I've only lost two big races, and I didnt lose in Barcelona, I was beaten. Hopefully, we can forget those losses now." (AFP)

International Spectrum



A Glance at International Events

TEHRAN TIMES

Tehran Times Weekend Issue

THURSDAY, JULY 25 1996; MORDAD 4, 1375; RABIUL-AWAL 8, 1417

Iran Spectrum



A Glance at National Events

The World This Week

WORLD NEWS

Wednesday July 17

TWA Plane Explodes Off New York



Hopes dimmed for finding survivors after TWA 747 with 230 people on board went down off the coast of Long Island, New York, a leading federal investigator said.

U.S. Senate Approves Iran Oil Sanctions Act

The U.S. Senate has unanimously approved a bill that will punish foreign firms which invest in the oil and gas industries in Iran and Libya, congressional aides said Wednesday.

Rodionov Appointed Russian Defense Minister

General Igor Rodionov was appointed Russian defense minister Wednesday by presidential decree, the Kremlin said.

China's Flood Death Toll Rises to 666



The death toll in China's devastating summer floods crept up to 666 Wednesday while water level in the Yangtze River continued to swell even further past danger levels.

Thursday July 18

Netanyahu Repeats Three "Nos"



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pulled off a coup in his Cairo talks, giving little away to his Arab neighbors but managing to re-kindle Egyptian hopes for the future of the peace process.

Canada Opposes U.S. Congressional Bill

The Canadian Embassy in a statement issued on Thursday expressed concern about any unilateral trade embargo that would have an extraterritorial effect.

The statement underlined that Canada had registered its concerns about the U.S. Congressional bill on Iran in a diplomatic note to the U.S. administration on April 29.

Typhoon Eve Hits Southern Japan

Typhoon Eve, packing maximum winds of 144 kph, hit Japan's southern main island of Kyushu on Thursday, forcing flight and ferry cancelations.

Tajik Government, Oppositions Agree on Cease-Fire

The government of Tajikistan and Islamic oppositions agreed Thursday on a cease-fire in the central district of Tavildara, the Interfax news agency said in a report monitored by the BBC

Friday July 19

400 Sri Lankan Soldiers Could Have Killed in Attack

Nearly 400 Sri Lankan troops could have died in a massive attack by Tamil Tiger guerillas on a military garrison in the country's northeast, the rebels radio said Friday.

Bomb Blast Target Law and Order Bodies in Bishkek

Three bomb blasts rocked the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek Friday, seriously damaging buildings where law and order officials were working ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

Bosnian PM: No Iranian Fighters in Bosnia

The Prime Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Hasan Muradovic, Friday strongly denied some Western media reports alleging the presence of Iranian fighters in Bosnia.

"There were never any Iranian fighters in Bosnia. There are no foreign fighters left in Bosnia." Muradovic told the American TV-network CNN in an interview Friday evening.

Saturday July 20

Atlanta Olympics Open

In a blaze of light, colored and Music, the Atlanta Olympics were launched here Saturday as brash Hollywood and the traditional old south met to give hearty Americans send off to the centennial games.

Mubarak, Arafat Hold Talks on Peace Process

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met Saturday with his Palestinian counterpart Yasser Arafat to follow up on Mubarak's talks last week with Israel's rightwing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Russian Jets Pound Southern Chechenya

Russian warplanes carried out heavy air raids on the mountainous Shtoi and Irum-Kale districts of southern Chechnya Saturday killing some 15 people and wounding up to 45, a Chechen spokesman told Echo Moscow Radio.

UN Disarmament Conference Ends

Nuclear disarmament experts from 22 countries wrapped up a four-day UN conference in the western Japanese city of Hiroshima Saturday, voicing support for the proposed Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), reports said.

More Than 200 Die in Attack on Refugee Camp

More than 200 people died overnight when rebel Hutus attacked a camp of displaced Tutsis in central Burundi, Marc Nteunuye, cabinet chief of the Burundian prime minister, told AFP Saturday.

Sunday July 21

Russian Offensive Continues Against Chechen Forces

Russian warplanes resumed their bombardment of Chechen positions around the southern village of Satoi on Sunday for a second consecutive day, the Interfax agency reported.

13 Hospitalized Following Basque Militant Airport Bombing



Thirteen of the 33 people injured at the weekend by a Basque extremists' bomb at a busy airport near here remain in hospital, including five with serious injuries, police said Sunday.

Amnesty International Calls For Arms Embargo on Afghanistan

Amnesty International Sunday called for a stoppage of arms shipments into Afghanistan, saying the supply of weapons to rival factions aggravated human rights abuses in the country.

Monday July 22

Nine Die by Pakistani Airport Bomb

A powerful bomb exploded at Lahore International Airport leaving nine people dead and 30 injured in the ninth terror attack in Pakistan in little more than three months.

Niger Junta Leader Is Declared President



Niger's incumbent president and leader of its military government General Ibrahim Bare Mainassare was on Sunday officially declared the winner of elections held two weeks ago.

Strong Earthquake Rocks Indonesia

A strong earthquake with a magnitude of 6.6 on the Richter scale jolted Indonesia's central Sulawesi Province Monday night, damaging buildings, a meteorological official here said Tuesday.

Tuesday July 23

Talks Succeed in Ending Bangladesh Opposition Boycott

The main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) ended a three day parliamentary boycott and joined the Parliament session Tuesday, House speaker said.

LOCAL NEWS

Wednesday July 17

Nateq Nouri Meets Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly



The Majlis Speaker, Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri in a meeting with Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan Seyed Yusuf Reza Gilani said that the global arrogance is responsible for differences and conflicts among the regional countries.

Thursday July 18

110 Projects Come On Stream During President's Visit to Hamedan



Over 110 development projects became operational at urban and rural areas of the western province of Hamedan on Thursday while President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was on a visit to the province

Friday July 19

Kashani Warns Regional Countries on Close Relations With Israel

Tehran's substitute Friday prayer Leader, Ayatollah Mohammad Emami Kashani, on Friday warned the Arab countries on close relations with the Zionist regime, saying it was just like a friendship with a wolf.

Borujerdi Submits Message to Turkish President



The Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs, Alaeddin Borujerdi, submitted a written message from President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to Turkish President Suleyman Demiral.

Saturday July 20

Iran Expresses Condolence Over TWA Crash

Iran's Foreign Ministry's Spokesman, Mahmoud Mohammadi, expressed his heart-felt sorrow over a Trans World Airlines air crash near the Long Island.

Sunday July 21

Georgian Foreign Minister Calls on President Rafsanjani

The Georgian Foreign Minister, Irakli Menagari Shrili, called on President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and discussed with him regional and bilateral issues.

Monday July 22

Iran, Georgia Sign Memorandum of Understanding



Iran and Georgia signed a memorandum of understanding here Monday at the end of the three-day visit of the Georgian Foreign Minister to Tehran, Irakli Mena Gharish Vili.

Tehran Asks Bonn to Help Free Iranian Diplomats Kept in Israel

Foreign Ministry's Spokesman, Mahmoud Mohammadi, here Monday felicitated the Labanese people on the return of 45 Lebanese prisoners of war (POW), who were kept captive by the Zionist regime, and the remains of 140 martyrs of the Islamic Resistance Movement.

Tuesday July 23

President Receives Zimbabwean Foreign Minister

Visiting Zimbabwean Foreign Minister, Stan Mudenge submitted President Robert Mugabe's message to President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The Care and Feeding of Husbands



For years, we've all been taught what makes a woman feel loved. Entire industries have pumped out the message, with advertisements showing idyllic moments by candlelight, by the sea, by the luxury car, wherein the woman — always the woman — is the one being courted. What about the man? What is he feeling?

Historically, with women's rights now in the forefront, this is a bad time for men, their feelings and the old pipe-and-slippers routine. Yet in a modern marriage in which both parties try to cope with the minor madnesses of daily living, it is not just the woman who needs to feel loved.

Men need. We need to feel *we* count, too. There are times — say, when picking up the children's toys — when I need a message that tells me I haven't blended in with the wallpaper. My wife can give me this feeling with a smile or a remark. Funny remarks help. Something said to me, over the heads of the children, like "There seem to be an awful lot of people living here!" may not be very funny — but it's meant for *me*.

What men are looking for is simple contact on an emotional level, a caring. What can that be?

In our house, with two children to bring up and my wife working, it is inconceivable that she should serve up my pipe and slippers. Yet one of the most loving things that she can do for me is to be the very opposite of fawning. I make my living as a writer, and if my wife tells me that something I write is terrible — "It doesn't work, darling; it's dreadful" — *that* makes me feel loved. Praise is easy; but who else would confront me with terribleness?

Sometimes what you think makes a man feel loved doesn't. One friend told me, "In our area, the wives are throwing surprise thirtieth or fortieth birthday parties for their husbands. The men don't want them, but it's 'the thing to do.' I told my wife that if she threw a surprise fortieth birthday party for me, I'd throw one for her. That settled it."

Other things that don't make a man feel loved; Giving him gifts like keyrings or desk organizers. (He doesn't want to be organized.) Getting him interested in a new sports activity, like buying him a track suit. (If he doesn't go for a daily run, he doesn't want to.)

But there are other things that do make a man feel loved. Some men love to get flowers occasionally — roses even. (Women never bring them any.) Or take your husband out to dinner. (Really take him — the wife works out the bill and the tip, and pays them.) Or try leaving him alone for five or six hours.(Privacy is something a man needs from his mate and it is one of the hardest things for him to ask for.)

'*I* still think the way to a man's heart is through his stomach," says a good friend of mine. "I work at home, and I really appreciate it when my wife, busy as she is, manages to leave an outstanding lunch for me — a beautiful salad, say — before she goes off to work. She lets me know that in a hurried household I still count."

Once upon a time, the tough he-man was supposed to be granite-jawed, withstanding all adversity — and all feeling. Some who believed this now have trouble getting in touch with their feelings. Very likely that is why many men, when asked, have told me that what gives them a sense of feeling loved is women's anticipating their needs."

In my case, I am not the smartest dresser in the world. But every once in a while, if some event is coming up where it would be pleasant if I put on a good appearance — or on no particular occasion at all — my wife will give me some tasteful article of clothing that she knows I need. An expensive shirt, perhaps, that I would never dream of buying for myself. That makes me feel loved.

For a textile salesman, not having to potter around the 'house at weekends the way men are *supposed* to gives him a loved feeling. "Gardening is no pleasure for me," he explains. "So now we have a gardener. It's luxury, but that was love to me when my wife suggested, 'Harry, you don't have to mow the lawn any more.,"

I am not very handy around the house. It is a house rule that my wife hangs the pictures, for example. But on those rare occasions when I do something successfully, she is lavish in her praise. "Darling, you took that nail and aimed that hammer and you knocked the nail right into the wall. Terrific!" Transparent? Overpraise? Maybe, but I love it.

At the same time, there are certain special things I am good at. For example, I am a tough negotiator in business matters. I know it; my wife knows it. The nice thing is, she lets me know that she knows. This ability is not taken for granted — and that makes me feel

(Contd on Pg.4)

Andalusian Chicken (SPAIN)

You will need...

10 Oz. long grain rice
good pinch staffron
1 2 1/2 oz. can pimentoes
1 lb. cooked chicken, chopped
1/4 pint mayonnaise
salt and papper to taste
6 small gherkins, choppd
few black and green olives
1 oz. flaked almonds

Preparation time
15 minutes

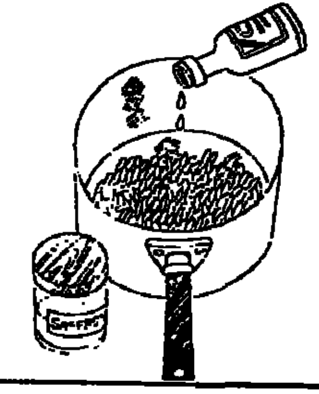
Cook rice in plenty of boiling salted water with the saffron until tender, about 12 minutes (see Quick Tip below). Strain, pour fresh boiling water through the rice to separate the grains.

Drain pimentoes, and cut into strips. Combine rice, chicken and mayonnaise. Season to taste..

Pile rice mixture on to a serving plate. Decorate with pimento strips, gherkins and olives. Sprinkle with almonds. *Serves 4.*

QUICK TIP

To deepen the color of saffron rice add a few drops of yellow food coloring to the water in which it is cooked. Do not omit the powdered saffron altogether or the rice will not have the characteristic delicate flavor.



A Househusband Confesses

Last year, my wife and I swopped roles. Every morning , she went off to an office and earned the money that paid the bills.

I cooked and cleaned, tidied up after three children, rubbed shoulders with bargain-hunting shoppers, begged for a rise in housekeeping money, and lived the generally hellish life that half the human race accepts as its lot.

The year is over now, but the memories won't go away. What is guaranteed to stir them up is any of those people singing the praises of the happy housewife — that mythical woman who manages a spotless house, rides herd over half a dozen children, whips up culinary masterpieces, smells sweet, and still finds time to read good books and study Japanese line engraving.

I never qualified. Never even came close. In fact, I never quite mastered that most basic task, cleaning the house. Any job that requires six hours to do and can be undone in six minutes by one



small child carrying a plate of biscuits and a Monopoly set is not a job that will long capture my interest.

After a year of such futility I have arrived at a rule of thumb: if the debris accumulates to a point where small animals can be seen to be living there, it should be cleaned up, preferably by someone hired for the occasion.

Housekeeping was just one facet of the nightmare. I think back to a long nightmare. I think back to a long night spent matching up four dozen single socks, all of them wool most of them gray. Running a nonstop taxi service. Growing older in dentists' waiting-rooms. Oh, the nightmare has as many aspect as there were hours in the day.

At the heart of my difficulty was this simple fact: for the past two decades I had been paid for my work. I had come to feel my time was valuable. Suddenly, my sole payment was a weekly allowance given to me with considerable fanfare by my breadwinning wife. I began to see it as a trap — a many- strings-attached offering that barely survived a single session in the supermarket.

The pay was bad, and the hours were long; but what bothered me most was my ineptitude — my inability to apply myself to the business of managing a home.

No longer do I feel guilty about my failure as a homemaker. I would no more applaud the marvelously efficient and content lift operator. The image strikes me as useful on several levels, but the point is this it is always someone else who goes up, someone else who gets off.

Some people seem to feel that the housewife's lot would be bettered if she were given a new title, one that takes into account the full range and complexity of her role — something along the line of "household engineer" or "domestic scientist." Wonderful. You come and take care of my house and kids, and you can become the Empress of the Domestic Arts, the Maharani of the Vacuum Cleaner.

A more intriguing suggestion is that husbands pay their wives salaries for housework. I suggested this to my wife and she said that I don't make enough money to pay her to do that job again. I am coming to the feeling that this is a job that should not be done by any one person for love or for money.

This is not to belittle the whole experience. By the end of the year, I had succeeded in organizing my time so that there were a few hours for the occasional book, the random round of golf. Then, too, it was a pleasure to be more than a weekend visitor in my children's lives. While my wife and I are now willing to de-emphasize housekeeping, neither of us would cut back on what some people call parenting and what I look on as the one solid reward in this belated motherhood of mine.

It will be argued: *someone* has to keep house. Not necessarily. In the first place, some *two* can do it. Secondly, I can think of no area in modern life that could more easily sustain a policy of being neglect than the home. Let a little dust gather where it may.

Many men will surely find this line of thought threatening. That's as it should be. Few slave owners were enthusiastic about the Emancipation. What is more surprising is that these thoughts will prove equally threatening to so many women. OK. Those females who demand the right to remain in service should not be discouraged.

But I suspect that the real reason for many women's reluctance to break bonds is fear of the world outside the home. They sense the enormous complexity of their husband's lives, the tremendous skills required to head a team of salesman or to write television commercials or to manufacture lawn fertilizer. The mind that feels these fears may be beyond the reach of change. It is another sort of mind, the mind that finds itself in constant rebellion against the limitations of housewifery, that concerns me here.

To this mind, this person, we should say: go ahead. There is a world out here, a whole planet of possibilities. The real danger is that you won't do it. If Gutenberg had been a housewife, I might be writing these words with a quill pen. If Edison had been a housewife, you might be reading them by oil lamp.

Obviously, a certain amount of toughness will be required. How do you do it? You might start by learning how to sweep things under the carpet. You might have to stop pampering the rest of the family — let them eat leftovers. And be prepared for the opposition that will surely develop.

Even the most loving family hates to lose that trusted servant, that faithful family retainer, that little old homemaker — you. No one enjoys it when the most marvelous appliance of them all breaks down. But if it will be any comfort to you, the lift you save is bound to be your own.

(Courtesy the Reader's Digest)

Answers to last week's SEQUENCES

A: 355 (multiply by two and subtract three), B: 1151 (multiply by three and add one, multiply by three and add two, etc.).

Feature

Facets of Countries

Spotlight: Singapore

The Island State

Tehran Times Service

JUST 25 YEARS AGO Singapore was a modest port, ringed by slums and squalor. Today it is three things--an island, a city, a nation. The last two have always dominated the first. It is possible to visit Singapore and forget that you are on an island.

The key to Singapore's tremendous development is the Concept Plan conceived in 1971 to help guide the country into a new age. Changi Airport (one of the key airports of the world, regularly named as the world's best), the MRT underground railway system, new housing, schools, hospitals and roads for a growing population all grew from the fertile soil of this plan and a nation's wish to get things done. In a relatively short period, Singapore has achieved what has taken many other countries generations to accomplish.

The current coastline of more than 140 kms will be almost doubled by creative reclamation. This will result in new beaches and coastal playgrounds. By Year X, Singapore will have increased its area by 17 percent, much of which will be dedicated to housing, recreation and leisure.

The new islands to be reclaimed from the sea--some in places at present covered by 15 mtrs of water--will give Singapore that extra dimension. Singaporeans will be able to enjoy a country that has more emphasis on its tropical "island-ness". All reclamation work will take into account the need to allow Singapore to capitalize on the cooling effect of sea breezes and water. Most visitors name the shopping, the ethnic districts (Chinatown, Kampong Glam and Little India) and the holiday island of Sentosa as the main drawcards. The new islands, plus the marinas and resorts, will be another key attraction. More public stadiums, golf course, tennis and squash courts, swimming pools and water sports centers are planned by Year X. There are also plans for more entertainment parks like Tang Dynasty Village and Haw Par Villa.

Behind all this is an environmental plan to give Singapore even more of a "clean and green" reputation that it already has. After all, tropical islands are not just sun, sea and sand. Lush foliage and sea breezes also play an important part.

Regional Centers

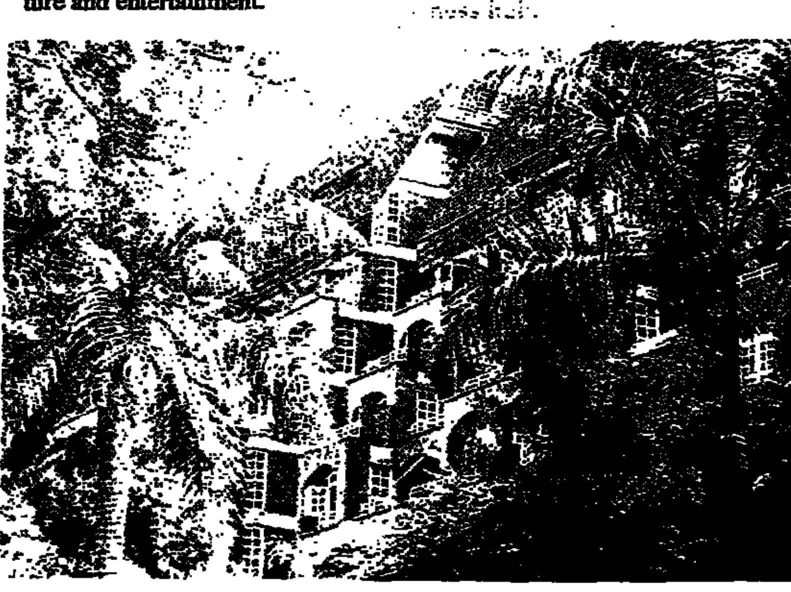
Perhaps the most dramatic physical changed envisaged by the revised Concept Plan is the development of four new regional centers. To be built in the west, northwest, northeast and east of the island, the centeres, along with the Downtown core, will give Singapore new hubs of business, employment, shopping, culture and entertainment.

The centers--Tampines, Seletar, Woodlands, Jurong East--will each have a distinct identity. Tampines Regional Center, close to Changi Airport, has the potential to become a site for corporate headquarters which executives can fly into and out of very quickly. Seletar Regional Center seems likely to be based around the aviation industry and the regional airport which already exists there. It has an attractive location on both banks of the Ponggol River.

This decentralization is designed to allow broad commercial growth and to prevent the Downtown area from becoming overdeveloped and congested. For Singaporeans, the regional centers will bring jobs and social amenities closer to home. They will also avoid the syndrome, seen all over the world, in which millions of people crowd into a city center at the same time--then all leave at the same time.



[illegible] ness Rail.



Singapore's revised Concept Plan will provide more living space per person.

Housing

Housing is a key element in increasing the quality of Singaporean life. The strategy here is to offer more choice, more variety and more room.

Most Singaporeans live in high-density public housing, which represents 83 percent of Singapore's housing stock. By Year X, that should fall to about 70 percent as more townhouses, maisonettes, semi-detached and terraced houses, bungalows and low-and-medium-rise apartment blocks become available. Existing public housing will be subject of a multimillion dollar upgrading program to provide amenities and facilities closely matching those in private condominiums.

There will also be new housing areas--many in more exotic locations like the islands mentioned earlier. People will also have more living space. At present Singaporeans have an average of 20 sq kms of living space each. That will increase to 30-35 sq mts by Year X. More community facilities--schools, hospitals and libraries--are also planned to serve the new housing areas.

Transport

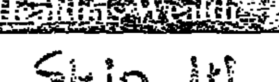
Singapore's MRT system has already been hailed as a success in providing comfortable, efficient and inexpensive travel between its 42 stations. By Year X, over 90 MRT and new LRT (light rail) stations are planned. This will provide an island-wide network as an attractive and practical alternative to the private car.

The island-wide expressway network should be in place by the Year 2000 and this will be complemented by high capacity semi-expressways. A new network of regional ferries and ferry terminals is also planned to serve the outlying islands and neighboring countries.

The revised Concept Plan offers something for everyone. It will provide all Singaporeans, regardless of income level, with one of the highest standards of living in the world. It will also boost its tourism industry and encourage more investment in the country.

It sounds a lot to expect. But in Singapore, things get done! (Courtesy of the *Silver Kris*, March 1992.)

Complete the nine-letter words listed above by inserting a three-letter word in the middle of each one. Then, reading downwards between the two black arrows, find the name of a British city. **(Answers next week)**



Health & Wealth

Skip It!

Experienced walkers, runners and aerobic dancers can indulge in a favorite childhood pastime with the excuse that it's healthy. Skipping is a cheap, easy way to build up cardiovascular endurance--but to do the job properly, you must skip for at least 20 minutes, three to five times a week.

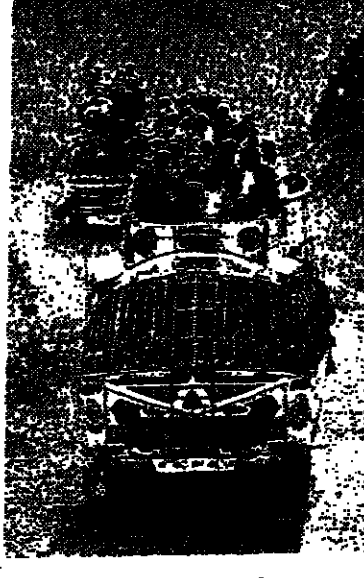
Besides the benefits to your heart, skipping also develops agility and helps build muscle strength. However, it does raise the heart rate quickly, hence can be unsafe for people new to aerobic exercise. Novices should first build up cardiovascular endurance through walking or running. Be sure to do warm-up exercises before skipping, and to wear cushioned shoes. And, if nobody's listening, remember those old playground rhymes..."Isn't it time your mum bought her new skipping rope?"

Travelogue

Heaven On Earth

Tehran Times Service

WELCOME to the Heaven on Earth--Shangri-La. Fifteen minutes drive from Skardu Airport, Shangri-La is in Baltisfan, also known as "Little Tibet."

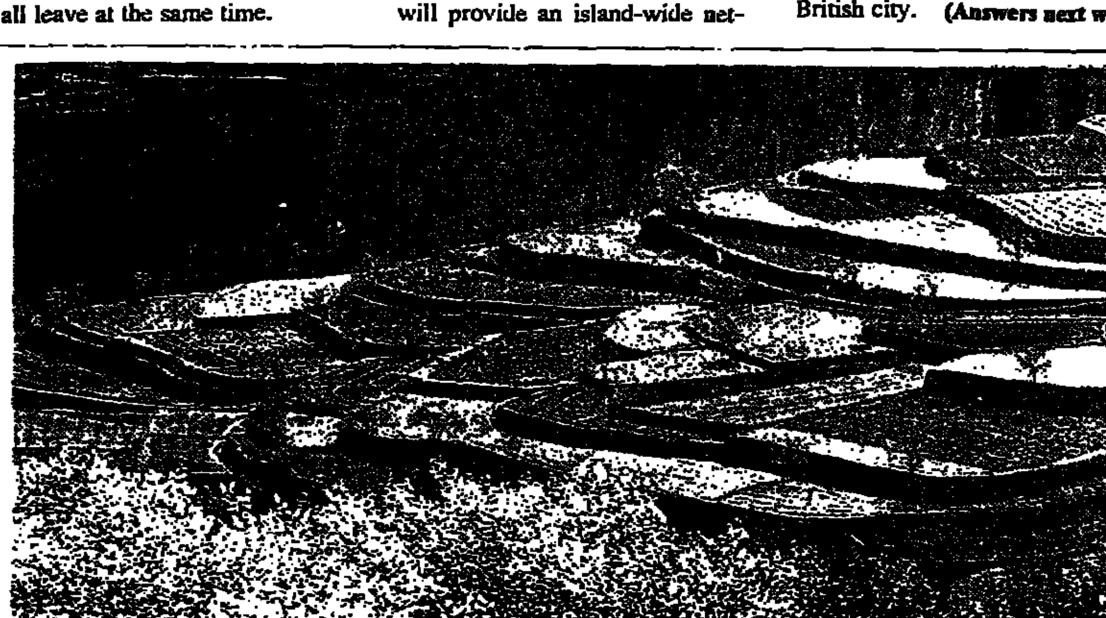


The Karakorum Highway to Rawalpindi.

Situated in the northwest of Pakistan and bordering Kashmir and the Chinese province of Sinkiang, the area extends more than a hundred kilometers astride the mighty river Indus.

It offers rugged grandeur and the densest concentration of lofty peaks on earth, including the second highest mountain in the world, K-2, 28,253 feet (8,611 meters) above sea level.

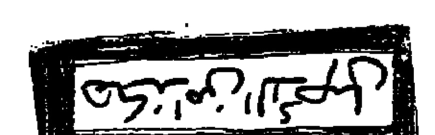
The northern regions are the abode of eight of the ten highest peaks on this planet, and winding through the rocky shoulders of these majestic mountains is the Karakorum Highway--a magnificent road that has come to be known as the eighth wonder of the world. It reaches a height of 16,000 feet above sea level and goes on to the Sinkiang Province of China.



Sheltered by the four-mile high embrace of the Karakorum Range, the Hunza Valley may have been the inspiration for James Hilton's vision of Shangri-La, but in the 1890s the region proved no utopia for British soldiers who paid in blood to subdue it.

Northern Pakistan is just the place for you to spend an unforgettable vacation. An excitingly different holiday awaits you in these towering mountains away from the humdrum bustle of everyday routine--rugged virgin terrain, wild rivers and torrents raging through narrow gorges, howling winds echoing past jagged peaks, metalled roads and horse trials leading to the fascinating Himalayan hideaway--the Shangri-La Tourist Resort. The people inhabiting these regions are friendly and gentle, but shy and completely innocent to the ways of the world.

Idyllic cottages are grouped over an 80-acre estate along the banks of the beautiful honeymoon lake. Comfort, quality and natural beauty is yours in a range of accommodation varied enough to suit different preferences and purses. (Courtesy of *Changi Airport Magazine*, September 1990.)



TODAY IN HISTORY

1971 - Doctor Christian Barnard transplants two lungs and heart into man in Cape Town, South Africa, and the operation is described as successful.

1973 - Federal judge rules that U.S. government must halt bombing of Cambodia on grounds it is "unauthorized and unlawful."

1986 - Masked Sikh extremists shoot and kill 15 people, 14 of them Hindus, in ambush on bus at railroad crossing in India's Punjab state.

1990 - Liberian rebels attack airfield in Monrovia, closing off that city's last link to the outside world.

1991 - Mikhail Gorbachev tells Communist Party leaders that building communism in the Soviet Union is no longer a realistic goal and that the party must reject "outdated ideological dogmas."

1992 - Italian government sends 7,000 soldiers to Sicily in Mafia crackdown.

1993 - Black gunmen attack church near Cape Town, killing 10 white worshipers.

1994 - Israel and Jordan agree on peace treaty.

CANDID CAMERA



Mojtaba Takin — Tehran Times

TOMORROW IN HISTORY

1945 - Britain, the United States and China demand Japan's unconditional surrender as terms for peace in World War II.

1952 - Egypt's King Farouk abdicates in favor of infant son, Fuad.

1953 - Fidel Castro begins revolt in Cuba, attacking army barracks at Santiago.

1956 - Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser nationalizes Suez Canal, and Britain, France and the United States announce financial retaliations.

1963 - Earthquake hits Skopje, Yugoslavia, taking more than 1,000 lives.

1990 - Iraq agrees to pull thousands of troops back from Kuwaiti border after Kuwait agrees to end overproduction of oil.

1991 - Communist leaders overwhelmingly approve Mikhail Gorbachev's new party platform, abandoning decades of Marxist dogma.

1992 - Fugitive drug boss Pablo Escobar softens his conditions for an eventual surrender.

1993 - South Korean jet crashes near Seoul, killing 66.

The Ghosts

Short Story

By Lord Dunsany

The argument that I had with my brother in his great lonely house will scarcely interest my readers. Not those, at least, whom I hope may be attracted by the experiment that I undertook, and by the strange things that befell me in that hazardous region into which so lightly and so ignorantly I allowed my fancy to enter. It was at Oneleigh that I had visited him.

Now Oneleigh stands in a wide isolation, in the midst of a dark gathering of old whispering cedars. They nod their heads together when the North Wind comes, and nod again and agree, and furtively grow still again, and say no more awhile. The North Wind is to them like a nice problem among wise old men; they nod their heads over it, and mutter it all together. They know much, those cedars, they have been there so long. Their grandsires knew Lebanon, and the grandsires of these were the servants of the King of Tyre and came to Solomon's court. And amidst these black-haired children of grey-headed Times stood the old house of Oneleigh. I know not how many centuries had lashed against it their evanescent foam of years; but it was still unshattered, and all about it were the things of long ago, as cling strange growths to some sea-defying rock. Here, like the shells of long-dead limpets, was armor that men encased themselves in long ago; here, too, were tapestries of many colors, beautiful as seaweed; no modern flotsam ever drifted hither, no early Victorian furniture, no electric light. The great trade routes that littered the years with empty meat tins and cheap novels were far from here. Well, well, the centuries will shatter it and drive its fragments on to distant shores. Meanwhile, while it yet stood, I went on a visit there to my brother, and we argued about ghosts. My brother's intelligence on this subject seemed to me to be in need of correction. He mistook things imagined for thing havings an actual existence; he argued that second-hand evidence of persons having seen ghosts proved ghosts to exist. I said that even if they had seen ghosts, this was no proof at all; nobody believes that there are red rats, though there is plenty of first-hand evidence of men having seen them in delirium. Finally, I said I would see ghosts myself, and continue to argue against their actual existence. So I collected a handful of cigars and drank several cups of very strong tea, and went without my dinner, and retired into a room where there was dark oak an all the chairs were covered with tapestry; and my brother went to bed bored with our argument and tying hard to dissuade me from making myself uncomfortable. All the way up the old stairs as I stood at the bottom of them, and as his candle went winding up and up, I heard him still trying to persuade me to have supper and go to bed.

It was a windy winter, and outside the cedars were muttering I know not what about; but I think that they were Tories of a school long dead, and were troubled about something new. Within, a great damp log upon the fireplace began to squeak and sing, and struck up a whining tune, and a tall flame stood up over it and beat time, and all the shadows crowded round and began to dance. In distant corners old masses of darkness sat still like chaperones and never moved. Over there, in the sat still like chapersons and never moved. Over there, in the darkest part of the room, stood a door that was always locked. It led into the hall, but no one ever used it; near that door something had happened once of which the family are to proud. We do not speak of it. There in the firelight stood the venerable forms of the old chairs; the hands that had made their tapestries lay far beneath the soil, the needles with which they wrought were many separate flakes of rust. No one wove now in that old room — no one but the assiduous ancient spiders who, watching by the deathbed of the things of yore, worked shrouds to hold their dust. In shrouds about the cornices already lay the heart of the oak wainscot that the worm had eaten out.

Surely at such an hour, in such a room, a fancy already excited by hunger and strong tea might see the ghosts of former occupants. I expected nothing less. The fire flickered and the shadows danced, memories of strange historic things rose vividly in my mind; but midnight chimed solemnly from a seven-foot clock, and nothing happened. My imagination would not be hurried, and the chill that is with the small hours had come upon me, and I had nearly abandoned myself to sleep, when in the hall adjoining there arose the rustling of silk dresses that I had waited for and expected. Then there entered two by two the high-born ladies and their gallants of Jacobean times. They were little more than shadows — very dignified shadows, and almost indistinct; but you have all read ghost stories before, you have all seen in museums the dresses of those times — there is little need to describe them; they entered, several of them, and sat down on the old chairs, perhaps a little carelessly considering the value of the tapestries. Then the rustling of their dresses ceased.

Well — I had seen ghosts, and was neither frightened nor convinced that ghosts existed. I was about to get up out of my chair and go to bed, when there came a sound of pattering in the hall, a sound of bare feet coming over the polished floor, and every now and then a foot would slip and I heared claws scratching along the wood as some four-footed thing lost and regained its balance. I was not frightened, but uneasy. The pattering came straight towards ten room that I was in, then I heared the sniffing of expectant nostrils; perhaps "uneasy" was not the most suitable world to describe my feelings then. Suddenly a herd of black creatures larger than bloodhounds came galloping in; they had large pendulous ears, their noses were to the ground sniffing, they went up to the lords and ladies of long ago and fawned about them disgustingly. Their eyes horribly bright, and ran down to great depths. When I looked into them I knew suddenly what these creatures were, and I was afraid. They were the sings, the filthy, immortal sins of those courtly men and women.

How demure she was, the lady that sat near me on an old-world chair — how demure she was, and how fair, to have beside her with its jowl upon her lap a sin with such cavernous red eyes, a clear case of murder. And you, yonder lady with the golden hair, surely not you — and yet that fearful beast with the yellow eyes slinks from you to yonder courtier there, and whenever one drives it away it slinks back to the other. Over there a lady tries to smile as she strokes the loathsome furry head of another's sin, but on of her own is jealous and intrudes itself under her hand. Here sits an old nobleman with his grandson on his knee, and one of the great black sins of the grandfather is licking the child's face and has made the child its own. Sometimes a ghost would move and seek another chair, but always his pack of sins would move behind him. Poor ghosts, poor ghosts! how many flights they must have attempted for two hundred years from their hated sins, how many excuses they must have given for their presence, and the sins were with them still — and still unexplained. Suddenly one of them seemed to scent my living blood, and bayed horribly, and all the others left their ghosts at once and dashed up to the sin that had given tongue. The brute had picked up my scent near the door by which I had entered, and they moved slowly nearer to me sniffing along the floor, and uttering every now and then their fearful cry. I saw that the whole thing had gone too far. But now they had seen me, now they were all about me, they sprang up trying to reach my throat; and whenever their claws touched me, horrible thoughts came into my mind and unutterable desires dominated my heart. I planned bestial things as these creatures leaped around me, and planned them with a masterly cunning. A great red-eyed murder was among the foremost of those furry things from whom I feebly strove to defend my throat. Suddenly it seemed to me good that I should kill my brother. It seemed important to me good that I should kill my brother. It seemed important to me that I should not risk being punished. I knew where a revolver was kept: after I shot him, I would dress the body up and put flour on the face like a man that had been acting as a ghost. It would be very simple. I would say that he had frightened me — and the servants had heard us talking about ghosts. There were one or two trivialities that would have to be arranged, but nothing escaped my mind. Yes, it seemed to me very good that I should kill my brother as I looked into the red depths of this creature's eyes. But one last effort as they dragged me down — "If two straight lines cut one another," I said, "the opposite angles are equal. Let AB, CD, cut one another at E, then the angles CEA, CEB equal two right angles (prop. xiii). Also CEA, AED equal two right angles."

I moved toward the door to get the revolver, a hideous exultation arose among the beasts. "But the angle CEA is common therefore AED equals CEB. In the same way CEA equals DEB. *Q.E.D.*" It was proved. Logic and reason re-established themselves in my mind, there were no dark hounds of sin, the tapestries chairs were empty. It seemed to me an inconceivable thought that a man should murder his brother.

(Contd from Pg. 2)

THE CARE...

loved.

These are the good moments. What about hard times? Jim, a 34-year-old electronics engineer, has been out of work for seven months. There is even a question now of whether he should continue in his profession.

"My wife is out working, and I stay with the children," he told me. "But she doesn't treat me as an invalid; she still has respect for my self-respect. It's a crisis for us, but she's calm, and says I should take the time to decide what to do. That's the most loving thing she could give me just now — her support."

Support. Not the old, mechanical, anything-dearie-does-is-all-right-with-me kind, but just caring.

One man tells me: "The small amount of touching, looking at each other, smiling, these are what make it for me. The things that say you are not alone." Another husband says: "I don't want to be taken for granted, to feel like a cart-horse just working to keep us ahead."

It all comes down to this: what makes a man feel loved is what would make a woman feel loved. We have heard enough about how men and women are different. In matters of the heart, we are all the same.

(Courtesy the Reader's Digest)

Stories of Nasreddin

Learned Half of the Job

Hodja was working as an apprentice in a tailor shop. One or two years after he began to work there, his mother asked him.

"What did you learn about your job, my dear "Tell me."

"Alright Mother, I've learned half of the job.

I can now rip open sewn things easily."

He continued to speak to his mother's surprise.

"The other half of the job remains. If I live long enough, I will also learn how to sew them together."

